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Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

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PSS

At the Marianas High School, Public School System interim commissioner of Education Donna M. Flores, associate commissioner for Administrative Services Eric Magofna, and Board of Education member Andrew L. Orsini led public education officials and stakeholders in presenting the award to three outstanding PSS professionals, all of MHS: Dr. Roque Castro Indalecio, State Teacher of the Year; Natalie Hill Beyer, State Librarian of the Year; and Michelle Taisacan, Distinguished Online Educator Award.

MHS' Indalecio is Teacher of the Year

- **Beyer is Librarian of the Year**
- **Michele Taisacan Distinguished Online Educator awardee**

An educator of Marianas High School, Dr. Roque Castro Indalecio, was hailed yesterday as the 2024-2025 Public School System State Teacher of the Year and will be the Commonwealth's representative to the

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Over 300 robberies in FY 2023

'CNMI expected to see increase in opiate overdoses'

» **Public Health Medical Director Dr. Muldoon's preemptive warning**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Medical Director of Public Health Dr. Lily Muldoon said the CNMI is expected to see an increase in opiate overdoses just as it has been

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Medical Director of Public Health Dr. Lily Muldoon speaks during the House of Representatives Health and Welfare Committee's meeting on Monday.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has released its community centric report breaking down the number of cases they have responded to in fiscal year 2023 and based on it, the department has responded to over 300 robberies.

According to DPS' community centric report, in fiscal year 2023, the department's patrol section has responded to 351 thefts and

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$15M MPLT revolving line of credit bill now law

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios signed into law on Monday a bill that authorizes the CNMI government to negotiate a revolving line of credit with the Marianas Public Land Trust in the amount of $15 million, with the provision that any loan made on this line of credit must be repaid within no more than seven years.

With Palacios' approval,

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Turkeys Liberty and Bell have new appreciation for the phrase, "Let freedom ring."
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LIFE & STYLE
The deaths of two people, muggings and a dangerous heat wave left legions of Taylor Swift's Brazilian fans angry and disappointed.
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Local

Make-A-Wish of Guam and CNMI grants local boy shopping sprees

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Andreas' wish day celebration included a special lunch at McDonald's, his favorite restaurant. In the photo are Andreas, his parents, and Make-A-Wish of Guam and CNMI board members Carline Sablan, Patty Palacios, Jay Santos, and Marcia Ayuyu.

Last Nov. 16, Make-A-Wish of Guam and CNMI fulfilled the wish of 5-year-old Andreas, who courageously battled leukemia in the last couple of years.

Andreas' journey began in 2020 when, at 3 years old, he was diagnosed with leukemia. His parents, Casandra and Lee, noticed alarming symptoms—persistent fevers, loss of appetite, spikes in temperature especially at night, and weakness. Despite multiple visits to the hospital and assurances of his well-being, Andreas was finally admitted to the Commonwealth Health Center for dehydration. Further tests revealed a severe issue with his blood, leading to his leukemia diagnosis.

In March 2020, Andreas and his family embarked on a challenging medical journey requiring specialized care and treatment at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego. Lee accompanied Andreas to San Diego while Casandra remained on Saipan, tending to their other children. After giving birth to her youngest child, Casandra relieved Lee in San Diego, allowing him to return home to care for their family.

"The journey was pretty scary especially with Andreas needing both chemotherapy and radiation treatment during the pandemic," remarked Lee, Andreas' father. "With Andreas being more vulnerable to COVID-19, we had to take every precaution. We were very concerned, but the support we received from the medical staff helped make it more manageable."

The Ronald McDonald House became their temporary home, offering solace during the grueling routine of early morning appointments, blood work, chemotherapy, and radiation treatments.

Routine check-ups, constantly monitoring his vitals, and adjusting to the unpredictability of his condition became part of their daily lives. Andreas' resilience shone through, with each milestone a testament to the strength of his spirit and the unwavering support of his family.

Upon learning that the maintenance treatment that he was receiving at the time was available in Saipan, Andreas and his mom returned in February 2022. The journey reached a significant milestone nearly a year later in January 2023 when Andreas completed his maintenance treatments.

Make-A-Wish of Guam and CNMI, committed to transforming lives of children with critical illnesses, recently granted Andreas' wish for shopping sprees at three local stores—The Athlete's Foot, Joeten Department Store, and Triple J Payless SuperFresh and Truckload Store.

The festivities continued as Andreas and his parents were treated to a special lunch at McDonald's, where a reserved table awaited them adorned with more balloons.

Team members at the establishments warmly welcomed Andreas, turning shopping carts, his lunch table, and his wish day experience into a true celebration of his battle against leukemia.

"Make-A-Wish of Guam and CNMI has been a source of hope for Andreas and our family. The shopping spree was a magical day, bringing joy to Andreas," said Andreas' mom Casandra. "Our special thanks to Make-A-Wish of Guam and CNMI for making this experience possible," Casandra added.

Carline Sablan, Make-A-Wish of Guam and CNMI board member, expressed her sentiments, "Andreas' story is a testament to the resilience of these children and their families. As a board member for Make-A-Wish Guam & CNMI, witnessing the impact of fulfilling these wishes is incredibly rewarding. It is not just about granting a wish; it is about providing hope during challenging times. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Make-A-Wish supporters and donors for their support in making dreams like Andreas' come true."

Patty Palacios, another dedicated Make-A-Wish of Guam and CNMI board member, added, "Witnessing the impact of wishes like Andreas' is truly heartwarming. We at Make-A-Wish are honored to be part of creating moments of joy and celebration for these resilient children." ***(PR)***

Chamber partners with gov't agencies for Toys for Tots Campaign

This holiday season, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce partnerships with key CNMI government agencies for its annual Toys for Tots Campaign.

"We extend our sincere gratitude to the esteemed government entities who have joined hands with us to bring joy and smiles to the less fortunate in our community," the Chamber said in a statement.

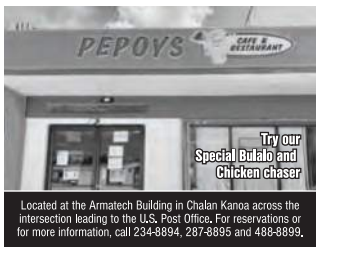
The Chamber, alongside the First Lady Wella Foundation, the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, the Women's Affairs Office, and the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College, extends heartfelt its thanks to the following CNMI Government agencies for their generous support:

- Veterans Affairs Office
- Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Lands and Natural Resources
- CNMI Office of the Attorney General
- Office of Management & Budget
- CNMI Women's Affairs Office
- Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs
- CNMI Office of Personnel Management
- Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Public Safety
- Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority
- Department of Public Lands
- Marianas Visitors Authority

See CHAMBER on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Chamber of Commerce poses with representatives from government agencies taking part in its annual Toys for Tots Campaign at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill.



Located at the Armatech Building in Chalan Kanoa across the intersection leading to the U.S. Post Office. For reservations or for more information, call 234-8894, 287-8895 and 488-8899.

Chamber celebrates success of 4th Quarter Mixer at PIC

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Turnkey Solutions' Broc Calvo won a new laptop during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 4th Quarter Networking Mixer at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Seaside Grill last Nov. 16.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce hosted a successful 4th Quarter Networking Mixer at the Chamber member establishment, the Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Seaside Grill, last Nov. 16.

Business leaders and members gathered on the 2nd floor for a night of connection, collaboration, and camaraderie.

The highlight of the night was the Chamber's live survey activity. Attendees shared their thoughts on interactive survey questions, and the results were displayed in real-time, adding a fun and insightful element to the evening.

In addition, the Chamber would like to extend its sincere gratitude to Chamber member, The ERC Group, for generously donating a laptop as a raffle giveaway.

"Congratulations to our Chamber member, Broc Calvo, of Turnkey Solutions, for being the lucky raffle giveaway winner," the Chamber said in a statement.

The Chamber also extended its thanks to Pacific Islands Club Saipan for their wonderful hospitality.

"The event's success fuels our excitement for more gatherings in 2024. We hope to see even more members and future members at our upcoming events."

For details on future events or information about joining the Chamber, please call the Chamber's office at (670) 234-7150 or email contactus@saipanchamber.org. ***(PR)***

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EARN PACIFICPOINTS
IT&E

Palacios encourages CPA to entice airlines to come to Saipan

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority was joined by Gov. Arnold I. Palacios for a regular board meeting yesterday who encouraged them to step up to the plate and find ways to entice new and even old airlines to return to Saipan.

As the CNMI's sole money-making industry is tourism, it's no secret that the CNMI administration, headed by Palacios, has been working on getting new markets to travel to Saipan to help boost the economy absent the China market.

Because of this, Palacios, speaking in yesterday's CPA regular board meeting, encouraged board members to step up and find ways to entice new airlines and possibly even old ones to come visit Saipan.

"Are there really no other markets out there? What will it take for us to talk to an airline in Japan? I've had those conversations but I'm not sure if CPA has had any conversation with any airlines from Japan or Korea. We do have airlines from Korea coming in, but these are small jets, is there an opportunity to bring in bigger assets? That's probably something CPA might want to look at," he said.

In an interview with Palacios after the meeting, he said we all need to work together to bring in new markets and new airlines.

"I'm not sure why CPA, in the past, had this sense that it is not their job to go out and look for airlines although the airlines are the ones that generate their revenue. I had the opportunity to go to several Asian countries which were our markets to try to reinvigorate and entice them to come. We need to reconfigure ourselves to bring in more Japanese tourists and even bring in Taiwan and see what we can do about other markets," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CNMI

From page 1

happening in the mainland and in Guam.

"So, consider this a preemptive warning, urging us to act decisively and proactively," said Muldoon during the House of Representatives Health and Welfare Committee's meeting on Monday that tackled two bills regarding opioids.

H. B. 23-23 seeks to establish CNMI Drug Overdose Policy; to authorize and mandate first responders to possess opioid overdose reversal medication; to authorize standing orders for opioid overdose reversal medication; and to provide limited immunity for dispensing opioid overdose medication.

H.B. 23-25 proposes to amend provisions of the CNMI Good Samaritan Act to protect and encourage opioid overdose reversal administration by granting limited immunity from civil liability.

Muldoon, who is also an emergency medicine physician at CHCC, said these two legislative measures aimed to establish a comprehensive CNMI drug overdose policy, a critical initiative and collective endeavor to combat the ever-growing opiate epidemic.

She said the staggering reality of drug overdose deaths reached an unprecedented high in 2022.

The doctor said over 100,000 individuals died from drug overdoses in the U.S. mainland in that year alone.

She said the CNMI is not immune just like during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Muldoon said having served as an emergency room doctor in the U.S. mainland before relocating to the CNMI, she witnessed firsthand the devastating impact that opiate overdoses have on patients and their families.

She said the urgency of this issue cannot be overstated, demanding a swift strategic and unified response.

The doctor said the proposed bill takes a substantial stride in authorizing and mandating first responders to carry out carry the opioid overdose reversal medication that is called Naloxone, which is an indispensable tool for saving lives in the critical minutes following an overdose.

"Naloxone is easily administered, it's a simple spray up the nose and it will reverse the effects of opiates," she said.

Muldoon said time is of the essence and sometimes when given in the emergency department, it's too late.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

MHS

From page 1

prestigious National Teacher of the Year competition next year in the nation's capital.

Another MHS education professional, Natalie Hill Beyer, was also named the 2024-2025 PSS State Librarian of the Year. This is the third time for Beyer to win the state-level award. She was the overall winner in 2019 and 2018.

Michele Taisacan, also of MHS, is this year's recipient of the Distinguished Online Educator Award.

The announcement of the major PSS awards was one of the many highlights of yesterday's celebration of the Public School System's 35 year's establishment.

The two top PSS leaders—interim commissioner Donna M. Flores and associate commissioner for Administrative Services Eric Magofna—along with Board of Education members led the Education Day Celebration throughout Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

All 20 public elementary, middle, and high schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota held their respective Education Day celebrations yesterday. Flores and Magofna also attended yesterday Tinian and Rota public schools' celebration.

PSS became an autonomous agency in 1988 by virtue of the enactment of Public Law 6-10 which transformed the Department of Education into an independent government entity governed by an elected BOE.

Student winners

Student competitions on theme and essay writing, and logo design were another highlight in yesterday's PSS' 35 Years Education Day Celebration.

Following the announcement of the PSS teacher of the year announcement, Flores and Magofna flew to Rota to join Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School principal Annette Calvo and BOE vice chair Herman T. Atalig in announcing the winners for the theme and logo competition winners.

RHI won both competition categories: The winning theme, "Education Ignites the Flame to Success," was written by Eclair M. Ladao, a 12th grade student; and the logo winner was Mazed Mizan, an 11th grade student.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

MPLT

From page 1

House Bill 23-77, Senate Draft 1, becomes Public Law No. 23-12.

"The line of credit allows us to immediately provide seed funding to facilitate progress payments, improve payment turnaround time to contractors, and expedite project completion," said Palacios as he thanked members of the Legislature and MPLT for their support of this bill and partnership.

House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) is the principal author of the legislation. Several House members are co-sponsors. The House passed the Senate's amended version of the bill last Nov. 6.

Palacios said in press statements that this line of credit also supports revenue generation for the CNMI through tax collections.

He said more importantly, the line of credit helps to improve the overall quality of life for CNMI residents by ensuring the timely completion of critical U.S. Economic Development Administration-funded Capital Improve Projects in the CNMI.

Palacios requested this line of credit as a sort of "bridge financing or advances" for costs related to EDA-funded projects that will help expedite the progress of about $100 million worth of CIPs.

"Overall, the projects will provide a safe and modernized tourist district, disaster resilient government and educational facilities, and additional economic activity for the CNMI," Palacios said.

The EDA grants have been awarded on a reimbursement basis to a number of CNMI agencies.

Under the bill, the line of credit from MPLT will allow the CNMI government to front the funds due to vendors, such as architectural and construction firms. The CNMI government can then seek reimbursement of these funds from the EDA.

The interest rate shall be 5.5% per annum.

The EDA-funded projects include the Garapan Revitalization Project; the Oleai Sports Complex; the Oleai Cultural Events Center; the Department of Finance Economic Resilience Center; the Northern Marianas College's Workforce Development and Training Center; the NMC Center for Research Extension, and Development Project; the Public School System's Career Technical Education project; Northern Marianas Technical Institute's Workforce Career Training Facility, Statewide Planning Grant project; Marianas Visitors Authority activities; and the Northern Mariana Islands Maritime Training Center (with 500 Sails as the grantee).

OVER

From page 1

robberies and 113 burglary and theft incidences.

The *Saipan Tribune* could not get DPS' 2022 community centric report but based on its 2021 report, DPS responded to nearly 500 burglary and theft cases in 2021. Both years saw significantly less burglary and theft cases compared to 2020 when DPS responded to about 774 burglary and theft cases.

Meanwhile, the DPS patrol section has also responded to 1,098 disturbing the peace call, 184 assault and batteries, 29 assaults with a dangerous weapon, 24 sexual assault calls, 12 illegal possession of controlled substance reports, 329 other criminal calls, 332 non-criminal case, and about 3,766 non-active cases.

As for DPS' highway patrol section, the department has responded to 428 auto crashes in FY 2023, 47 DUI cases, and three auto thefts.

DPS' criminal investigation division has investigated about 1,994 of these cases with 295 of them being forwards to the Attorney General's criminal division for prosecution.

In related news, DPS' Boating Safety section has responded to a total of 19 cases in FY 2023, 11 of them being distressed vessels, one stranded canoe, one capsized vessel, two distress swimmers, one distress diver, and two overdue fishermen.

In an interview with DPS spokesperson Fred Sato, he shared that DPS has seen a large number of robbery and burglary cases as of late and he believes it can be attributed to the entire CNMI's economic state.

"In my opinion, times are tough. People are desperate to survive. Of course, it is not the right way to go about this, burglarizing and stealing, but this contributes to the increase in these kinds of crimes. They are looking for a source of income," he said.

Sato also noted that there is still a big drug problem on the island and that has also contributed to the increase in burglary and robbery cases.

"Of course there is also the big drug problem on the island, people will do anything to get money to score their next hit. They take advantage of those whose homes are not secured," he said.

To deter burglars, Sato said if homeowners can afford it, they are encourages to get surveillance cameras to help catch suspects in the case that a burglary or robbery happens.

Also, Sato said having a good relationship with neighbors helps as they may also be vital in catching perpetrators should the need arise.

CHAMBER

From page 3

The Chamber said these partnerships underscore a shared commitment to bringing holiday joy to children throughout the Commonwealth. The CNMI government agencies have demonstrated their dedication by actively participating in the campaign, donating new and unused toys for those in need.

As the campaign gains momentum, the Chamber encourages community members to join in this collective effort. The last day to contribute to the Toys for Tots Campaign is Friday, Dec. 8. Donations can be made at

- Hyatt Regency Saipan
- Islander Rent-a-Car (Garapan & Dandan Branch)
- Naked Fish Bar & Grill
- Bridge Capital, LLC
- Commonwealth Health Care Corporation
- Insurance & Business Management Corporation
- T-Galleria by DFS
- Bank of Guam
- Club 88
- AB Risk Solutions
- BankPacific
- Century Insurance Company
- Mobil Marianas
- MARPAC Distributors
- Dial Rent to Own (Gualo Rai & Chalan Kanoa Branch)
- Paradise Dental Spa
- Docomo Pacific
- First Hawaiian Bank (Gualo Rai & Oleai Branch)
- Fork & Spoon: House of Sizzling
- Saipan Vegas
- Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic
- Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School
- Bank of Saipan
- Regal Saipan Megaplex 7
- Joeten-Kiyu Public Library
- Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.
- Saipan Chamber of Commerce
- KFC & Taco Bell Saipan
- Triple J Payless Superfresh & Truckload Store
- CNMI SBDC
- PHI Pharmacy (Dandan Branch)
- LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort

The Chamber expresses gratitude for the newly forged partnerships and anticipates a continued positive impact on the lives of children in the community.

"Together, we can make this holiday season brighter for those who need it most," it said in a statement.

For more information or to make a donation, please email saipantoys4tots@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

MTEC meets with My Wave Club advisors on school year plans

MTEC

Marianas Tourism Education Council chair Vicky Benavente, seated center, leads an MTEC orientation for school Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically club advisors on Nov. 15, 2023, at Pacific Islands Club Saipan. Also pictured are other MTEC directors and school MYWAVE Club advisors.

To kick off its annual schedule of outreach activities with students, the Marianas Tourism Education Council met with school Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically Club advisors last Wednesday.

The meeting focused on ways the two organizations can collaborate this school year to involve students with the islands' number one industry—tourism. The meeting, held at Pacific Islands Club Saipan, also included an overview of MTEC's goals and the programs that the council organizes in support of MYWAVE Clubs.

"The advisors are the key to the success of the MY WAVE program. They lead the students through Club activities such as the beach cleanups or MVA events. We are grateful for their hard work in helping students stay engaged and informed about the CNMI's tourism industry," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "MTEC also appreciates the contribution from DFS T Galleria to this meeting with MY WAVE Club advisers."

Programs offered by MTEC include the annual MTEC MYWAVE Tourism Summit, scheduled for January 2024. Also shared were details of suggested club activities to support and engage with tourism, annual educational presentations at schools by MTEC and the Marianas Visitors Authority, opportunities for advisors to earn a stipend for out-of-pocket costs in conducting club activities, and details on the MTEC Scholarship program for graduating seniors.

"The Marianas Visitors Authority helped found MTEC in 2002, and we're pleased to partner with MTEC on spreading information and enthusiasm for the tourism industry with our students," said MVA Community Projects manager and MTEC secretary Martin Duenas. "We also thank our many other sponsors and supporters who contribute to our work throughout the year in various ways."

MTEC is a non-profit organization that aims to heighten the community's awareness of the importance of tourism to the well-being of the people of The Marianas. MTEC's stated mission is three-fold: to foster community understanding and support of the visitor industry; to educate the general public, especially school students, about the value, social benefits, and economic contributions made to the community by the visitor industry; and to instill, improve, and promote the "Hafa Adai -Tirow" hospitality spirit throughout the island community.

In addition to Benavente and Duenas, MTEC board members include vice chair Glenn Policare (Kanoa Resort), treasurer Larissa Larson, Galvin Guerrero (Northern Marianas College), Larry Lee, Naomi Nishimura (CNMI Public School System), Gordon Marciano (PDI), Catherine Perry (Integrity Communications), and Dr. Yunzi Zhang (Northern Marianas College).

For more information, contact the MVA at (670) 664-3200/1. ***(PR)***

INDOPACOM officials, Palau reps end Joint Committee Meeting in Palau

U.S. NAVY/LT. CMDR. KATIE KOENIG

Rear Adm. Gregory Huffman, the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command senior military official for the Republic of Palau, along with Palau President Surangel Whipps, Jr., and senior leaders from INDOPACOM and Palau held the bilateral Joint Committee Meeting last Nov. 16-17.

ASAN, Guam—Rear Adm. Gregory Huffman, the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command senior military official for the Republic of Palau, and President Surangel Whipps Jr. led the bilateral Joint Committee Meeting last Nov. 16-17 in Palau, joined by senior leaders from INDOPACOM, the U.S. Department of State, and the government of Palau.

The JCM is in accordance with the Compact of Free Association Title III: Security and Defense Relations and promotes ongoing dialogue between nations for the purpose of enhancing security and defense responsibilities in the region.

"We are in a period of change and strategic growth in our defense posture in this region," Huffman said. "It is crucial that we have a full understanding of our individual and mutual needs as two countries in partnership—so that our military can successfully protect and defend our people and our freedoms as we have promised."

The JCM agenda for this session included defense responsibilities, infrastructure building, and regional military exercises.

"With our goals aligned, we will advance our security efforts, as partners, for the mutual benefit of our two countries and the region," U.S. Ambassador to Palau Joel Ehrendreich said. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA)
2390 Beach Road Oleai, Unit 205 | P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245 / 6293 / 7146 | Fax: (670) 235-7147

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION:	COMPTROLLER
TERM:	Exempt, two-year contract
LOCATION:	SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
ANNUAL SALARY:	Minimum $70,000.00
EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT:	HR 2023-03
OPENING DATE:	October 16, 2023
CLOSING DATE:	UNTIL FILLED We advise applying as soon as possible as we may close the vacancy early.

Information for this vacancy announcement can be found on our website at https://developcnmi.com/jva.html and by scanning the QR code below.

For inquiries on the vacancy announcement, please contact Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director at (670) 234-6245 ext. 311 or by email at m.sablan@developcnmi.com.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW24-ITB No.: 42400007

SUBMISSION DATE: December 07, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Supply and Delivery of a Trailer 60-80 Ton Lowboy with Detachable Neck Hydraulic Rear Ramps Center Boom Well."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **November 08, 2023** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **November 24, 2023,** 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **November 29, 2023** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Using George Floyd's death to attack Haley, DeSantis shows he doesn't 'get' empathy

Ron DeSantis doesn't do empathy. He's a governor who likes to talk tough on the presidential trail; such a foreign concept appears to get computed in his head as "left-wing mindset."

Speaking to a South Carolina radio host this week, DeSantis blasted the state's former Gov. Nikki Haley for her response to the 2020 death of George Floyd at the hands of a police officer who's since been sentenced to more than 20 years in prison.

"It's important to understand that the death of George Floyd was personal and painful for many. In order to heal, it needs to be personal and painful for everyone," Haley wrote on Twitter, now known as X, on May 30, 2020, five days after Floyd died.

DeSantis, who's battling Haley in early GOP primary states to be the main alternative to Donald Trump, accused Haley of "adopting this left-wing mindset."

"I remember when the George Floyd riots were happening, I called out the National Guard," he said, as Fox News reported.

"I said I'm standing with police, she was tweeting that it needed to be personal and painful for every single person. I'm thinking to myself, 'Why does that need to be personal and painful for you or me? We had nothing to do with it."

Floyd's death was indeed painful and personal for Americans, not only Black Americans and Democrats, but millions who watched then-officer Derek Chauvin kneel on Floyd's knee for over nine minutes. His death, unlike other deaths of Black men by police, was condemned across party lines and galvanized even Republicans to look at police reform.

Ironically, it was the same DeSantis who said, "We need leaders who are going to fight back against the left" who also signed into law a bipartisan police reform bill in 2021. He also pushed for an "anti-riot" law in the aftermath of Black Lives Matter protests in the summer of 2020 that civil liberties groups say can chill peaceful demonstrations.

The police reform legislation was the product of months of negotiations between Black lawmakers and Republican legislative leadership. Many reform advocates said it didn't go far enough, but in a Legislature the GOP controls with a super majority, it was a historic achievement. The new law requires, among other things, that police officers intervene if another officer uses excessive force.

DeSantis did the right thing by allowing these overdue reforms to become law. But police reform doesn't jibe with his brand of callousness and division. DeSantis tried to move to the right of Trump to peel off some of the former president's voters. Now he seems to be trying the same tactic to take down Haley, who represents the biggest threat to the second-place standing he's struggling to achieve in the polls.

Her performance in the three presidential debates has propelled her in polls in Iowa and New Hampshire—and Trump continues to lead by wide margins. DeSantis' campaign, on the other hand, has stagnated despite a good showing in the most recent debate, held in Miami.

It's expected that DeSantis will deploy any imaginable attack against this unexpected rival. Likewise, Haley has thrown jabs

See USING on Page 7

The West never had a chance at winning over the world

By PANKAJ MISHRA
Bloomberg Opinion

Pankaj Mishra is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is author, most recently, of "Run and Hide."

Only a few weeks ago, a new intellectual superstition was flourishing in the West: the "Global South." A phrase long deployed by left-leaning institutions and individuals had attracted, with stunning speed, wide fascination among mainstream politicians and journalists in Europe and the U.S.

Bestowing unprecedented attention on the summit of BRICS countries in South Africa and the G-20 conclave in India, the Western press was full of speculation about whether India or China would lead the Global South. President Joe Biden made his own preferences clear by strenuously wooing Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a self-proclaimed advocate for the Global South. The Biden administration drew up various schemes involving India in alliances with Israel and rich Arab countries, aimed in part at stemming Chinese influence.

A report by the European Council on Foreign Relations echoed the new Western consensus: The West needed to woo friendly members of the Global South such as India and Turkey if it was to build a new world order.

Now that the globally discordant conflict in the Middle East is threatening to prematurely terminate this Western infatuation, it is worth asking what it was all about. Did the project of winning over emerging nations reflect wishful thinking and image-projection by Western elites?

Certainly, the romancing seemed to ignore the reality that its object might have contradictory interests—the fact, for instance, that India could not swiftly wean itself off cheap oil from Russia and manufactured goods from China, even as it pursued military deals with Western powers.

The West's overnight interest in the Global South was rooted more in expedient self-interest than sober understanding of its intricacies. The phrase "Global South" itself flourished only after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, driven by the awkward realization that non-cooperation from Asian, African and Latin American countries could doom the Western effort against Vladimir Putin.

As it happens, Putin's war machine, indirectly funded by both India and China, appears to have withstood Ukraine's counteroffensive, and support for Kiev is likely to ebb in coming months among even its biggest Western supporters. Meanwhile, the Biden administration failed to enlist any major country of the Global South in its cause.

Even worse, the conflict in Gaza may now have mortally damaged Western power and credibility in the Global South.

While Israel seems no closer to victory in its own counteroffensive against Hamas, the high death toll among women and children is leading even such stalwart European allies of Israel as France to call for a cease-fire. Some Global South countries are more vociferous, accusing Israel of genocide and the West of double standards.

Western commentators err in taking at face value such morally charged criticism. Pro-Palestinian sentiment had, in fact, receded globally in recent years, except among the young and non-white populations in the U.S. and Europe. With its vibrant high-tech economy, Israel seemed irresistible, and the world, after all, quickly learns to love and embrace a winner. Indeed, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, presently a brazen champion of Hamas, was seeking close relations with Israel until Oct. 7.

Yet Palestine, as George Orwell pointed out in 1945, has always been a "color issue." Israel's treatment of Palestinians has long outraged not just Muslim populations worldwide, but anti-colonialists in Asia, Africa and Latin America, as well as African-American leaders in the U.S., from Muhammad Ali to Cornel West. Even despots such as Erdogan or Saudi Arabia's Mohammed Bin Salman cannot defy inflamed public opinion at home.

More importantly, many potential partners of Israel in the Global South can cynically calculate that the country under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's leadership is very far from becoming a winner again. They can see that Hamas brutally shattered Israel's aura of inviolability on Oct. 7 and, just as Hamas probably hoped, Netanyahu's retaliatory bombing of Gaza has brought a forgotten Palestinian cause back onto the stage of world history.

Israel now looks over-committed to a long war it cannot win, either on the battlefield or in the no less important court of international public opinion. Indeed, Israel's failure to define a viable future for itself and the Palestinians is now adversely impacting its closest ally, inducing bitter divisions in the U.S. State Department as well as on university campuses and potentially endangering Biden's re-election in 2024. No wonder veteran establishment commentators such as New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman are imploring the Biden administration to disengage from Netanyahu.

Few people love or want to embrace an adventurer who continues to recklessly gamble even as he loses. Biden's schemes involving Israel, Arab nations and India are already in ruins. The West's hopes of enlisting the Global South in building a new global order are likely to join them.

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This Day in the History of Saipan: Nov. 24, 1944

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The U.S. Army Air Force's 73rd Bomb Wing on Isley Field.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The U.S. Army Air Force B-29 Dauntless Dotty.

Since the beginning of the Pacific War, General Henry "Hap" Arnold, Commander, 20th Air Force, had dreamed of the day he would have enough B-29 Superfortresses on hand to bomb Japan into surrendering. However, production of the huge and technically complicated bomber was slow.

By mid-1943, sufficient B-29s had come off the assembly line and enough crews trained to organize the 58th Bombardment Wing. With no base close enough to Japan in American hands, in April 1944 the wing was sent to Kharagpur, India. From there, the big bombers could fly over the Himalayas to bases built in northern China, and from there to Japanese industrial targets in southern Japan, Korea, and Manchuria, an exceedingly inefficient operation.

Meanwhile, Admiral Ernest J. King, Commander, U.S. Fleet, pushed for the capture of the Mariana Islands. From there, the B-29s could fly directly to Japan. The Combined Chiefs of Staff eventually agreed, and June 15, 1944, became D-Day Saipan.

As the 2nd and 4th Marine Division prepared to land on Saipan's southern beaches, B-29s from the 58th Bomb Wing hit the Japanese industrial city of Yawata on southern Kyoto. Although they did little real damage, they sent a clear message to the military leadership in Tokyo: "We will capture Saipan, Tinian, and Guam, and we will bomb Japan into submission."

On July 9, Saipan was declared securely in American hands. General Hideki Tojo, Prime Minister and War Minister of Japan, was forced to resign on July 18. Knowing that more and more B-29s would be arriving in the Marianas, Japan could have surrendered and stopped the killing. They did not—choosing to sacrifice thousands of their civilian countrymen to aerial bombardment rather than accept the shame of defeat.

Virtually overnight, Seabees, Marine engineers, and Army Air Force engineers, working two 10-hour shifts, seven days a week, transformed the Imperial Japanese naval air base at Aslito, southern Saipan, into a B-29 base the Navy named Isley Field.

On Oct. 12,1944, the first B-29 Superfortress of the 497th Bomb Group, 73rd Bombardment Wing, arrived at Isley Field. The 498th, 499th, and 500th Bomb Groups arrived shortly thereafter. The 11 men in the crew of each Superfortress were mostly kids. They were essentially a college-age football team that had either volunteered or been drafted—not into the NFL, but the AAF. The youngest were only 17 years old, if they could get permission from their parents. The "old man" on the team was perhaps 23 or 24, a college graduate who had become a pilot, co-pilot, bombardier, or navigator. Scared to death, each plane's team did the job they had been trained to do and flew a Superfortresses from a training base in Kansas or Nebraska, to California, then navigated across the broad Pacific to Hawaii, and finally Saipan. They discovered a tropical island that had been destroyed, then reconstructed into a sprawling military complex.

On Nov. 18, 1944, General Arnold ordered the 73rd to fly mission San Antonio 1, a strike against Tokyo, the first since the Doolittle Raid in 1942. Unfortunately, the weather turned bad and the mission was delayed. The weather finally cleared on Nov. 23. The mission was set to go on Nov. 24. (23 in the Marianas) Isley Field was far from complete. Only one runway was functional. Regardless, Brig. Gen. Emmet "Rosie" O'Donnell, Commander, 73rd Bombardment Wing, put every plane capable of flying on the flight line.

By DON FARRELL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Don Farrell is author of the acclaimed book Tinian and The Bomb, available on line at https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07BMTVF1K.

Just at sunrise, 0615, on Thanksgiving Day, 1944, 79 years ago today, the B-29 Dauntless Dottie, with O'Donnell at the controls and Maj. Robert K. Morgan, erstwhile pilot of the famed B-17 Memphis Bell in the co-pilot's seat, rolled down the runway at Saipan. Hundreds of Seabees, Marines, and engineers swarmed around the airport to watch the 73rd take off, to the cheers of all. Another 110 B-29s from the 73rd, 90 percent of the Superfortress on Saipan, followed behind.

When they returned that evening the crews experienced empty bunks in their barracks, for the first time: Two planes had been lost—22 men; 22 teammates, gone. Feelings about the mission were bitter-sweet as the airmen munched on turkey and mashed potatoes, and dreamed of home. They had faced death, become combat-tested, and moved the war forward; one day, one mission, closer to its end, and a flight home.

The raid did little real damage to Tokyo, but the crews, both in the air and on the ground, had gained combat experience, their aircraft tested, and problems identified that could be rectified. Japanese morale plummeted, knowing that this would be only the first of many such raids. American morale, both in the States and the Marianas, skyrocketed. Hollywood created the movie "Target Tokyo" based on this mission and narrated by Ronald Reagan (available on YouTube). And Americans on the home front learned a bit more about Pacific geography.

Those airmen from the 73rd Wing who survived the war undoubtedly remembered Mission San Antonio 1 every Thanksgiving Day for the rest of their lives, just as we do today.

Social media is addictive but that's not a crime

"Big Tech loses bid to toss lawsuits alleging social media platforms harmed children," blared the New York Post. "Social media companies must face youth addiction lawsuits, US judge rules," said Reuters. Such news coverage of last week's order from Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers suggests that the tech companies mostly lost. But from where I sit, Silicon Valley mostly won.

Yes, Judge Rogers let stand a significant fraction of the claims in the hundreds of lawsuits that have been consolidated in her courtroom. But the most spectacular allegations—that social media addicts teens and damages their health—were mostly dismissed.

The lawsuits at issue were filed by parents, organizations and state attorneys general against the companies behind Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok and Snapchat. The defendants moved to dismiss, under both the First Amendment and Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996. Judge Rogers dismissed a large chunk of the lawsuit but allowed a number of claims to go forward.

Along the way, however, addiction practically vanished from the case. Just go through the allegations. The biggies—"Use of algorithms to promote addictive engagement" and "Timing and clustering of notifications of third-party content in a way that promotes addiction"—are barred by Section 230, writes Judge Rogers. Why? Because they're the sort of things publishers do. They want your attention; they work to keep it. That's quintessential publishing behavior.

The same fate befalls "Not providing a beginning and end to a user's 'Feed'" and "Limiting content to short-form and ephemeral content" and all the other tools that social media companies deploy to keep users hungry for more. Those claims, too, simply exemplify the "common definition of what a publisher does."

In this sense, her opinion picks up on precisely the weakest part of the social-media-addicts-us argument. The difficulty isn't whether the premise is true; it's whether the premise is punishable. Nobody thinks a traditional publisher is at fault for doing all it can to keep fans sufficiently hooked that they'll buy millions of copies of the next volume of "A Song and Ice and Fire" when it comes out; or that the producers of "Succession" acted wrongfully when they structured the tale so that viewers could scarcely wait to find out what would happen next.

What Judge Rogers left in place were a number of theories about product liability—that the companies knew their services carried some risk, but failed to either mitigate it or warn users. There's some meat there, to be sure. The plaintiffs will be allowed to argue, for instance, that the defendants make it too hard to close accounts, and that they should offer more robust parental controls. If you're struggling to raise children in the face of the online onslaught, these are far from trivial issues, and the tech companies should be ashamed of themselves. But the product liability counts bear only a tenuous connection to the central claim of the lawsuits, that social media addicts the young.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not arguing against the substantial body of evidence suggesting that social media can be addictive, especially in youngsters. It's a worldwide problem, and addiction rates in North America are a long way from the worst. A 2022 paper in the American Economic Review estimated that a whopping 31% of social media use stems from lack of self-control. Lots of people want to cut back but struggle.

The problem is genuine. But not every problem can be fixed by filing the right lawsuit. Judge Rogers is correct in her view that Section 230 protects social media platforms when they act like publishers. And despite the steady drumbeat that the provision needs repeal or extensive revision, I'm among those who tremble at the thought of what government officials would do once granted broad authority over online content.

By STEPHEN L. CARTER
Bloomberg Opinion

Stephen L. Carter is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist, a professor of law at Yale University and author of "Invisible: The Story of the Black Woman Lawyer Who Took Down America's Most Powerful Mobster."

What, then, is to be done? Call me an optimistic pessimist. Because Judge Rogers preserved the product liability counts, the tech companies will likely seek a settlement under which they'll implement better parental controls and ease the task of users who wish to delete their accounts. Such changes regulate not a scintilla of content, yet should be helpful to concerned parents. The challenge of addiction, alas, is far too large to be fixed by a court.

USING

From page 6

against the governor, including a misleading claim that he's against fracking for oil and natural gas. He's said he's for it but not in Florida, where there's wide opposition to it.

Can DeSantis defeat Haley by painting her as too empathetic to Americans concerned with police brutality? He will certainly try, but his own record on police reform makes it harder to land that punch.

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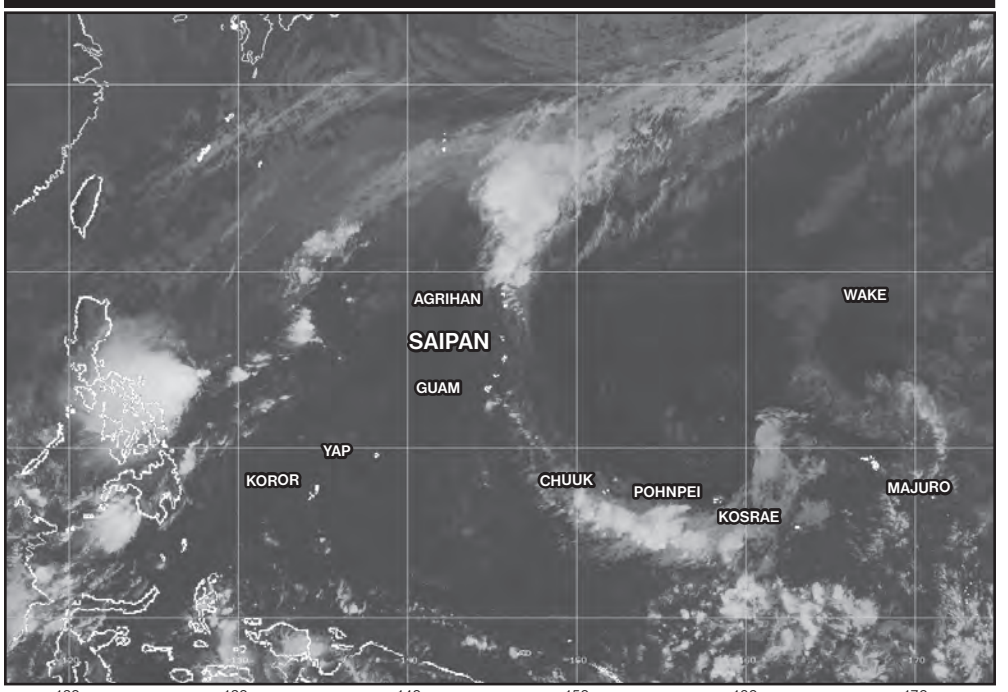
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
87 / 77°	87 / 77°	87 / 77°	87 / 77°	87 / 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:56 AM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Gentle southeasterlies prevail in the region. Doppler radar shows a line of light to moderate showers forming just outside the eastern coastal waters. The buoys indicate seas are about 5 to 6 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:21 AM	5:43 PM
Thursday	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Friday	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	5:43 PM
Sunday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:13 AM	1:55 PM
Thursday	-	2:09 AM	2:35 PM
Friday	-	3:04 AM	3:15 PM
Saturday	-	4:00 AM	3:57 PM
Sunday	-	4:58 AM	4:42 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	75° / 63°
Beijing	Fair	57° / 33°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	81° / 73°
Honolulu	Sunny	81° / 71°
London	Cloudy	55° / 43°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	72° / 59°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	73° / 57°
Miami	Showers	79° / 70°
New York	Showers	50° / 46°
Osaka	Sunny	62° / 43°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	52° / 39°
Busan	Showers	61° / 36°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	64° / 45°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	69° / 45°
San Francisco	Showers	58° / 46°
Seoul	Sunny	55° / 29°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	63° / 46°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	56° / 36°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
2:04 AM	High Tide	1.32
8:55 AM	Low Tide	0.10
3:58 PM	High Tide	1.84
10:34 PM	Low Tide	0.60

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	7:50PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:40AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	2:15AM	6:10AM	Daily
7C3403	4:40AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA189	00:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	00:40AM	8:45AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:15PM	3:30PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	7:45PM	1:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:15PM	3:35AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

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RESORT SAIPAN

The 1st Anniversary

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NOVEMBER 22, 2023

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Wishing Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan a very Happy First Anniversary! May your passion for providing excellent service grow stronger in the years to come.
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ONE YEAR OF LUXURY AND HOSPITALITY

Celebrating Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's 1st anniversary

CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is a home away from home for many families.

By TERI M. FLORES
CORRESPONDENT

One year of impeccable accommodations, tailored offerings that lead to an exceptional guest experience, and a focus on superlative customer service marks the first anniversary of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

General manager Clayton Darlington can't be prouder than he is now of the great strides the resort has taken in welcoming guests, one year after it opened its doors for business.

"It's been a very exciting year opening the resort and welcoming guests to the new Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan. The location has a long and proud history and seeing guests back and enjoying the resort, visiting restaurants, or attending weddings and events has been fantastic," said Darlington, who had just recently taken over the reins of the hotel as its newest executive.

For the past 12 months, the 422-room property has been busy beefing up its business, mostly overcoming the challenges of recovering from an economic climate that is still reeling from the result of back-to-back super typhoons and a global recession due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

> **"We are committed to helping our guests explore the island and connect with the rich culture, heritage, and natural beauty."**

But thanks to the backing of a well-respected global hotel brand, the staunch and unwavering support of its owners, and the hard work of a team of hospitality professionals, Crowne Plaza Resort is on its way to establishing its presence on both Guam and Saipan in the Northern Marianas.

"Opening at the tail end of the pandemic with so much uncertainty was a challenge, and the team has done a fantastic job in settling into their roles and bringing the resort up to the global Crowne Plaza brand standards. The support of our

See CROWNE on Page 11

CROWNE

From page 10

owners, TanHoldings and InterContinental Hotels Group, was critical in successfully opening two new resorts—Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan and Crowne Plaza Resort Guam within a few weeks of each other.

"The biggest challenge we're all facing now is the return of tourism to pre-pandemic levels. It's something we all need to work closely together with the Marianas Visitors Authority to overcome," said Darlington.

To say that much continues to be expected from Crowne Plaza Resort, particularly as it stands on the shoulders of the IHG, which operates renowned global hotel brands, is an understatement. Within the one year that the Resort has been in operation, it has capitalized on IHG's extensive global network of over 6,000 hotels and resorts, which has helped continue to boost the resort's reputation to the savvy global traveler of today.

Most especially, the resort's positive impact on CNMI tourism is much welcome to an economy that needs all the help it can get to survive and compete with other established global destinations.

The Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN

"Being a part of global hotel operator IHG provides scale and reach to all corners of the world. IHG One Rewards loyalty program has over 100 million members and whether through reservation call centers and sales offices covering languages and time zones in all corners of the world, social media, digital marketing, or through other Crowne Plaza Hotels & Resorts, people are hearing about the CNMI all the time," Darlington said.

From its interiors that complement Saipan's pristine waters, to its extensive buffets that feature both local and international favorites, to activities and events that allow guests to take part in the rich Chamorro culture and heritage, these are what makes the Saipan resort stand out from the rest of the IHG-managed properties.

"We are committed to helping our guests explore the island and connect with the rich culture, heritage, and natural beauty," Darlington said. "We showcase this in the resort through the diversity of our team, our Ataari dinner show, and activities in the resort allowing guests to experience and learn about the culture and traditions of the Northern Marianas and its neighboring islands of the Pacific. These experiences create lifelong memories and are a highlight for many of

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Thank you
TO OUR PARTNERS, VENDORS & FRIENDS FOR YOUR SUPPORT
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Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan
Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950
+1 (670) 234-6412 | saipan.crowneplaza.com

CROWNE

From page 11

our international visitors."

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's commitment to succeed in the cutthroat tourism industry can best be described as relentless.

"We are very conscious of our role in driving awareness of our destination and actively participate in IHG and Crowne Plaza brand-led campaigns and regularly engage with our IHG teams around the world to let people know what a great destination the CNMI is," said Darlington.

To see Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan succeed is a goal shared by many who recognize the hard work and determined efforts of its owners, TanHoldings, to give back to the community where it has done business for the past 50 years.

The resort is officially owned by the Asia Pacific Hotels Group, which is one of several companies in Micronesia owned by TanHoldings. Their multi-million-dollar investment in Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan ensures the legacy of being one of the pioneers of the CNMI's tourism and hotel industry.

The resort was originally known as the Dai-Ichi Hotel from the '70s until 2002 when TanHoldings assumed ownership and changed its name to Fiesta Resort Saipan. In May 2020, the property officially became Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, with TanHoldings entering into a long-term agreement with the IHG group to operate the property.

"The resort has a strong legacy and is in a fantastic location for visitors to the is-

See CROWNE on Page 14

CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN

The view of the Saipan Lagoon from one of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's balconies.

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Congratulations on Your

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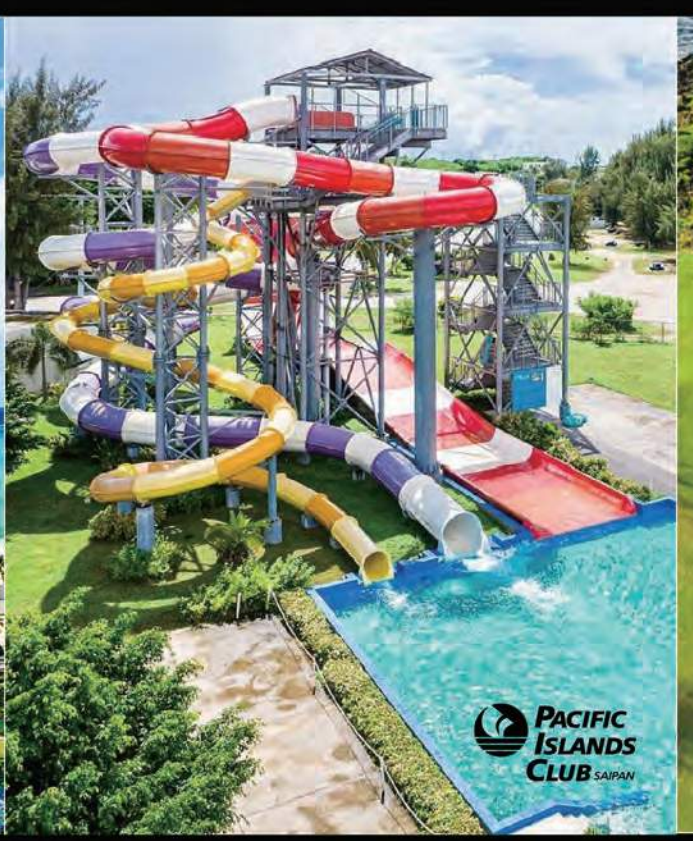
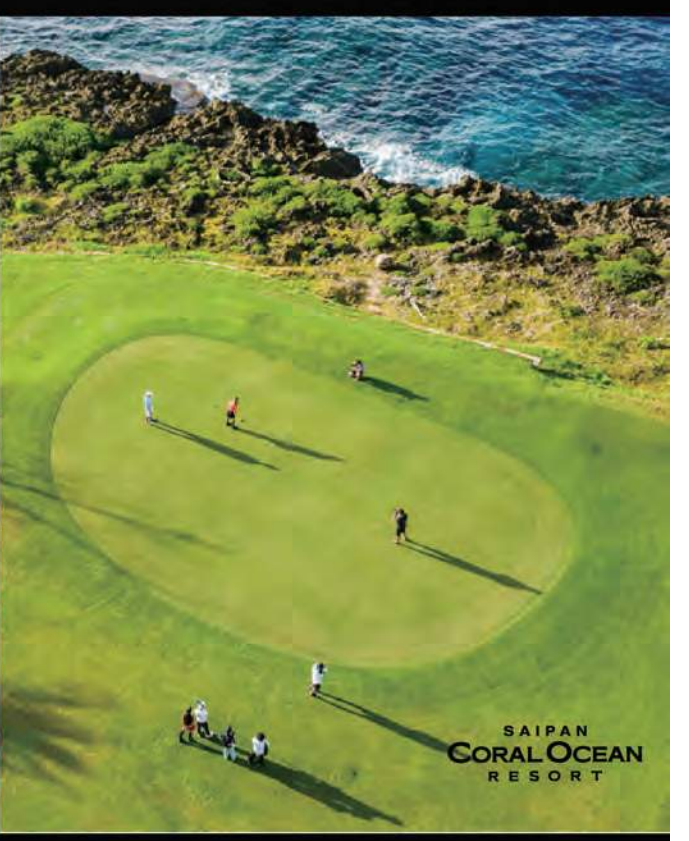
ANNIVERSARY

To the management and staff of

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan





E·LAND

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CROWNE

From page 12

land to enjoy and explore the CNMI's history and culture. Our owner's investment is an investment in CNMI tourism and the opening of the resort with an international brand is a strong message to all that the CNMI is open for business," said Darlington.

While achieving and enjoying commercial success is one of the ultimate desires and goal of an investor, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is equally conscious of its social responsibility to the CNMI and its people. In line with its owner's philosophy of philanthropy and corporate giving, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan actively supports the CNMI's tourism industry, education, and local talents.

"We want to play a strong role in partnering with the community and a key milestone in our first year was the launch of the IHG Academy in partnership with [Northern Marianas Technical Institute]. We'll continue to build on this to provide opportunities for learning and skills development and to support the next generation of CNMI hospitality professionals," said Darlington.

In fact, the resort conducts year-round activities to support its philanthropic pursuits with local government and non-profit organizations benefiting from its generosity.

"We've been doing activities monthly to make a difference, including hosting events, making donations, and sponsoring and participating in a wide variety of events. September is IHG's 'Giving for Good' month where 6,000+ IHG Hotels and Resorts in more than 100 countries organize activities to make a difference in their communities.

"We also want to actively support MVA initiatives and we're happy to participate in Christmas in the Marianas last year and the team had a lot of fun participating in Taste of the Marianas in June this year. We will continue to actively support and participate in island wide events moving forward," Darlington said.

As far as its future is concerned, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is steadfast in its resolve to create the ultimate guest experience for those who choose to make the resort their home away from home.

"We're really excited about the future. We will continue to provide a warm welcome and great hospitality to all,

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CROWNE

From page 14

whether visiting a restaurant, staying overnight, or for a special occasion and we will continue to partner with the community to make a difference," Darlington said. "We all need to work together to grow tourism and we are committed to partnering with all stakeholders to make that happen. Everyone has a role to play to make sure our visitors have a wonderful time and tell all their friends and families about the CNMI."

In celebration of its first anniversary, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan has lined up several events and offerings which, from Nov. 24 to Dec. 10 gives guests a 25% discount at The Terrace, Mari Bar, Market Place, and the Ataari Dinner Show.

Guests looking to unwind for the weekend can take advantage of the resort's "Dream Staycation" package. Follow Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's social media accounts on Instagram and Facebook for more information and prizes to be won as part of the resort's first anniversary celebration.

For more information about Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, visit their website at saipan.crowneplaza.com or connect to their social media pages on Facebook and Instagram. The resort is located at Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan, Saipan. Call 670-234-6412 or email at info.cprsaipan@ihg.com.

CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN

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LUXURY ACCOMMODATIONS AND UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES

A look inside

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's Kids Club is a fun place for your kids.

CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN

By TERI M. FLORES
CORRESPONDENT

Today's post-pandemic travelers expect an upscaled experience different from the sense of sameness and vibe most everyone is accustomed to. Many of today's travelers who belong to younger generations want to see diverse environments and experience things differently.

To cater to this growing market, today's hotel experience now integrates new technologies and innovative

See LOOK on Page 18

Congratulations on the first of many anniversaries!
First Hawaiian Bank is proud to congratulate Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan on celebrating their 1st anniversary.
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LOOK

From page 16

design ideas to respond to the changing needs and preferences of both business and leisure travelers. This is where Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan delivers.

"The resort targets modern

See LOOK on Page 19

"Undeniably, this is a beautiful resort in a stunning location, and we want everyone to enjoy the great hospitality and facilities at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan."

Watersports activities abound at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan. CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN

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CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's lobby at sunset is a favorite backdrop for its guests' photographs.

LOOK

From page 18

travelers seeking inspiration, energizing experiences, and moments of downtime," said Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan general manager Clayton Darlington.

Explaining the ethos behind the Crowne Plaza brand, Darlington said, "The Crowne Plaza brand addresses the blurring of lines between business and leisure and the needs of the modern traveler. We're a brand that wants to

> **"We're a brand that wants to give you a seamless, connected, and authentic experience.**

See LOOK on Page 20

Happy
1st
Anniversary
Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan!
You have truly made your mark – here's to many more years of success, innovation, and exceptional guest experiences.
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ROTA			
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LOOK

From page 19

give you a seamless, connected, and authentic experience."

This 422-room resort located at the heart of Saipan's tourist district in Garapan is the first property in Micronesia under the Crowne Plaza brand, which is managed by the global hotel group IHG Hotels & Resorts.

The resort's aesthetics integrate the tropical environment and the location in which it's physically situated. Combining the function and design that Crowne Plaza rooms are known for, even the smallest details were considered to create a calming and relaxing environment. From the acoustics to the lighting and down to the bedding—all these elements come together, building an atmosphere that supports work, relaxation, and sleep, setting guests in a calming and relaxing environment.

TanHoldings, which owns the resort, invested millions of dollars in the property, which features fully renovated facilities and equipment, including new air conditioning and elevator systems. The need for a reliable digital connection is a must nowadays and the resort has invested a sizeable amount to guarantee that guests can access high-speed internet connection in all areas of the property. All rooms also feature state-of-the-art IPTV systems.

A focal feature of the resort is the open lobby, which is an agile welcoming space that can be adjusted to the needs of the guests.

There are ample spaces to gather and share as well as semi-private areas suitable for meetings—all set within proximity to the scenic turquoise waters of the Saipan lagoon.

"Undeniably, this is a beautiful resort in a stunning location, and we want everyone to enjoy the great hospitality and facilities at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan," said Darlington.

The resort's untiring effort to make it the ideal destination and vacation spot has been well received and appreciated by its guests.

"Guest feedback is always the best measure of a resort and the most regular feedback in reviews to date has been the location and easy accessibility, the beautifully appointed rooms, the view and sunset, the food and beverage quality, and how "'Instagrammable' the resort is," Darlington said. "Guests love the design features around the resort."

Cheers to many more years of hospitality at its finest.

Happy 1st Anniversary

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan!

GPPC INC.

General Contractor

A year of culinary delights

By TERI M. FLORES
CORRESPONDENT

Explore Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's food and beverage offerings and discover a dining experience that both pleases and nourishes not just the palate, but also the mind and soul.

Each dining outlet has its own signature and special touches, beginning with The Terrace, the resort's main dining facility, which features a daily culinary spread of classic dishes and signature favorites. Foodies get to enjoy their meals amidst the relaxing backdrop of the Saipan lagoon's turquoise waters.

Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner, The Terrace features theme nights that have become a crowd favorite with its own loyal following.

Dine on Italian favorites during "Italia Mia"—the lunch and dinner offerings on Mondays and Tuesdays.

» Exploring Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's dining experiences

The Smoked Meats Feast Night is a gustatory delight that the resort proudly hosts every Wednesday and Thursday.

"The standout is the meat, which is slowly smoked in the resort by chef Zenn Tomokane and his team. It's unique and has become so popular," said Darlington.

Japanese comfort food takes centerstage at lunch and dinner every Friday and Saturday during "Plaza Izakaya" while The Terrace's Sunday Brunch has become a part of every local family's Sunday gathering.

The Terrace has private rooms that can host intimate gatherings and can seat 191 guests indoors and 60 outdoors.

An added perk for diners at The Terrace is the "Resort Pass" which includes lunch/brunch and pool access, Monday-Saturday that's $50 adults $20 kids, and Sunday with their Special Sunday Brunch for $75 adults, $25 kids—a great price for those seeking to dine and enjoy some quality time with the kids.

At the Mari Bar, guests can relax in its casual ambiance while enjoying signature cocktails and drinks from the bar's extensive selection of international and domestic wines.

This popular hangout enjoyed by locals and visitors alike has a relaxed bohemian vibe and is an ideal place to catch one of Saipan's roman-

See CULINARY on Page 23

Best wishes to Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan as they celebrate a year of excellence, dedication, and making guests feel truly at home.
Happy 1st Anniversary!
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Performers from the Ataari Dinner Show dance at the Crown Plaza Resort Saipan's lobby. The group is known as Saipan's best cultural performance.

CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN

CULINARY

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tic sunsets.

"Mari Bar Golden Hour has really taken off, as have some of the menu items like the smoked pulled pork nachos and the Crowne Burger. The live music Thursday-Saturday is a hit," said Darlington.

In one corner of the resort's tropical-inspired lobby is the Market Place, where workspaces are available for those catching up with the office or just meeting colleagues.

Aside from its freshly brewed coffee creations and light bites and drinks, the Market Place is home to the gelato, Italy's soft ice cream, which is now a Saipan favorite. A recent addition to foodie favorites is the newly launched themed cupcakes, which are enjoying brisk sales.

A "must-do" for visitors is the Ataari Dinner Show, which highlights the songs and dances of the Pacific and Micronesian regions. Dine on a buffet of international and local favorites at what is dubbed as "Saipan's best cultural performance."

Local foodies of all ages, on the other hand, have their erstwhile go-to dining haunt, which is Mai Teppanyaki. Its team of chefs received training from the top teppan chefs of ANA InterContinental Manza Beach Resort in Okinawa.

Since its recent reopening, patrons have come back with gusto to Mai Teppanyaki for a taste of the freshly prepared selection of meats, seafood,

See CULINARY on Page 24

Happy 1st Anniversary

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan!

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From the management and staff of

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CULINARY

From page 23

and vegetables prepared tableside by the restaurant's teppan chefs.

Darlington is proud of the resort's culinary team whose ingenuity, skills, and talent have contributed to the success of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's fresh and vibrant food and beverage offerings.

To remain on top of its game, Crowne Plaza invests in constantly training its culinary team, composed of a mix of local and international culinary talents who come from different regions of the globe.

"They work with our culinary team at Crowne Plaza Resort Guam and our IHG Team to share ideas and to keep things fresh and interesting. We want to provide an environment where the team can learn, share ideas, and showcase their skills. This

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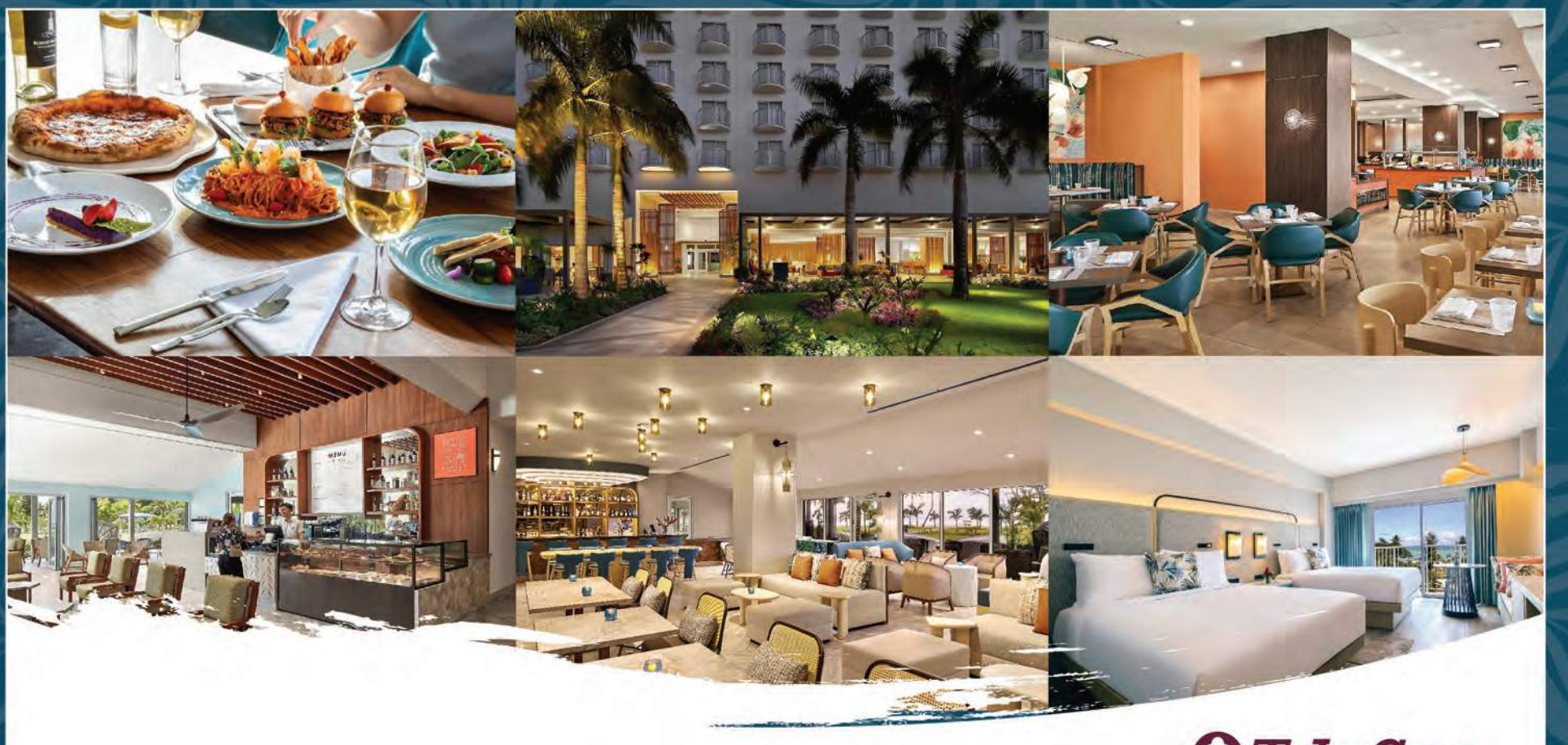
CROWN PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN

At the Mari Bar, guests can relax in its casual ambiance while enjoying signature cocktails and drinks from the bar's extensive selection of international and domestic wines.



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CROWN PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN

The Mari Bar is an ideal place to catch one of Saipan's romantic sunsets.

CULINARY

From page 24

is something we want to do more of to bring new flavors, styles of cooking and cuisines for all to enjoy," said Darlington. "We're always evolving in Food & Beverage with new ideas and promotions. We're always keen to hear feedback from our guests and will keep the favorites and continue to introduce new favorites."

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is equally popular when it comes to hosting big events, meetings, and celebrations. With its 515-square-meter space, the Hibiscus Ballroom can comfortably fit 500 guests.

More intimate events are hosted at the Azucena Room. which can accommodate 120 guests, while weddings and intimate fun events can be held at the resort's 4,600-square-meter outdoor venue, which is also fully equipped and wired to host 400 guests.

What makes Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan stand out as an events place is its professional events team that guide and advise guests in making their gatherings the events they envision them to be.

"The Hibiscus Ballroom has always had a loyal following and we were very happy to welcome many long-standing events back to the resort. This year we also welcomed a lot of new business from local and abroad. This is an area of the business we want to continue to grow, especially in bringing new groups and events to Saipan," said Darlington.

As part of its one-year anniversary, Crowne Plaza is offering a 25% discount at The Terrace buffet, Mari Bar, Market Place, and the Ataari Dinner Show from Nov. 24 to Dec. 10. To make reservations at any of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's restaurants and bar, call 670-234-6412 or email info.cprsaipan@ihg.com.

Cheers to Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's
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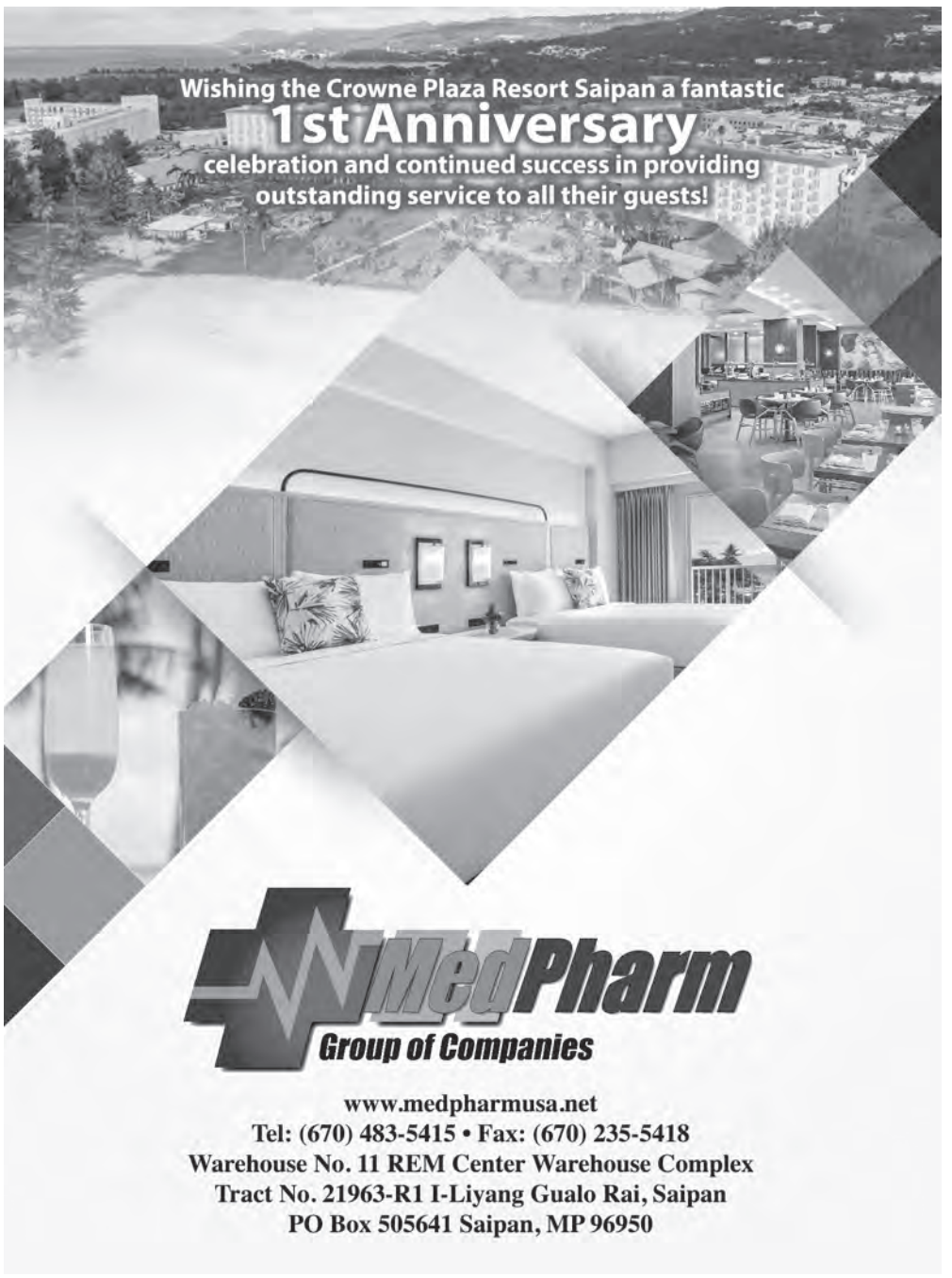
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Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan welcomes new general manager

By TERI M. FLORES
CORRESPONDENT

Bringing his 20 years of experience as a seasoned hospitality professional to the scenic shores of Saipan, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is pleased to introduce Clayton Darlington as its new general manager as of Oct. 11, 2023.

Building on a reputation of tireless work, dedication, and team-oriented approach to achieving the property goals set by the owners and the InterContinental Hotels Group, Darlington is ready to take on the challenge of taking Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan to new heights of success.

"I have always been a hands-on leader throughout my career, and I intend to continue to drive standards by ensuring the team is utilizing all the great tools and resources that are available to us through IHG. There are always challenges no matter which location you are running a hotel or resort; you just need to make the most of the opportunities that you have," said Darlington.

Starting out as a hotel trainee in South Africa in 2003, Darlington worked his way through the other areas of hotel management beginning at Housekeeping and Food & Beverage. Darlington eventually found his calling in Operations in 2007.

In 2017, upon relocating to New Zealand, Darlington joined the team of the Holiday Inn Auckland Airport as its operations manager. A year after, he became the general manager of the property.

> **"A meticulous and caring leader who likes to be in the business to create long-term strategies and plans."**

In a letter announcing Darlington's appointment to Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Clive Murray, IHG director of Operations, Luxury and Lifestyle for Japan and Micronesia, described the latter as a "meticulous and caring leader who likes to be in the business to create long-term strategies and plans."

Darlington is also credited for the work he did with his team to create a culture that supports and drives hotel performance. Under Darlington's leadership, his team at Holiday Inn Auckland Airport was able to overcome the challenges of COVID-19, with the team remaining loyal and the resort coming out experiencing strong growth.

As for his initial impressions upon taking on his new role at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Darlington said: "I was truly impressed with the completed refurbishment, design, location, facilities, and the restaurant and bar outlets. The team has been amazing and very welcoming, a fantastic reflection of the true hospitality they provide our guests on a day-to-day basis."

True to his commitment to continuous improvement, Darlington is focused on his quest to provide the ultimate guest experience by giving his team the tools to provide stellar customer service.

"I will always try and consistently improve the overall experience of our guests by adopting up-to-date hospitality trends. However, my first steps will be to work on tailored development programs for our high potential team members who are interested in growing their careers in hotel management."

Aside from the CNMI's rich culture and tradition of its people, Darlington believes it is the Northern Marianas' unique "Hafa Adai" spirit that makes the islands appeal to the discriminating global traveler.

"Personally, the main selling point of the Northern Marianas is its beautiful location, the countless ocean views, and its wonderful warm weather. The Northern Marianas has a rich history, with many options for cultural experiences both in the ocean and on land. Most of

See MANAGER on Page 27

> **"We look forward to creating amazing memories with our children, teaching them about multicultures and how to appreciate the beauty and nature that is all around us."**

May Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan
continue to impress and delight
guests in the years ahead.
Happy 1st Anniversary!
From the management and staff of
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Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan general manager Clayton Darlington.

CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN

MANAGER

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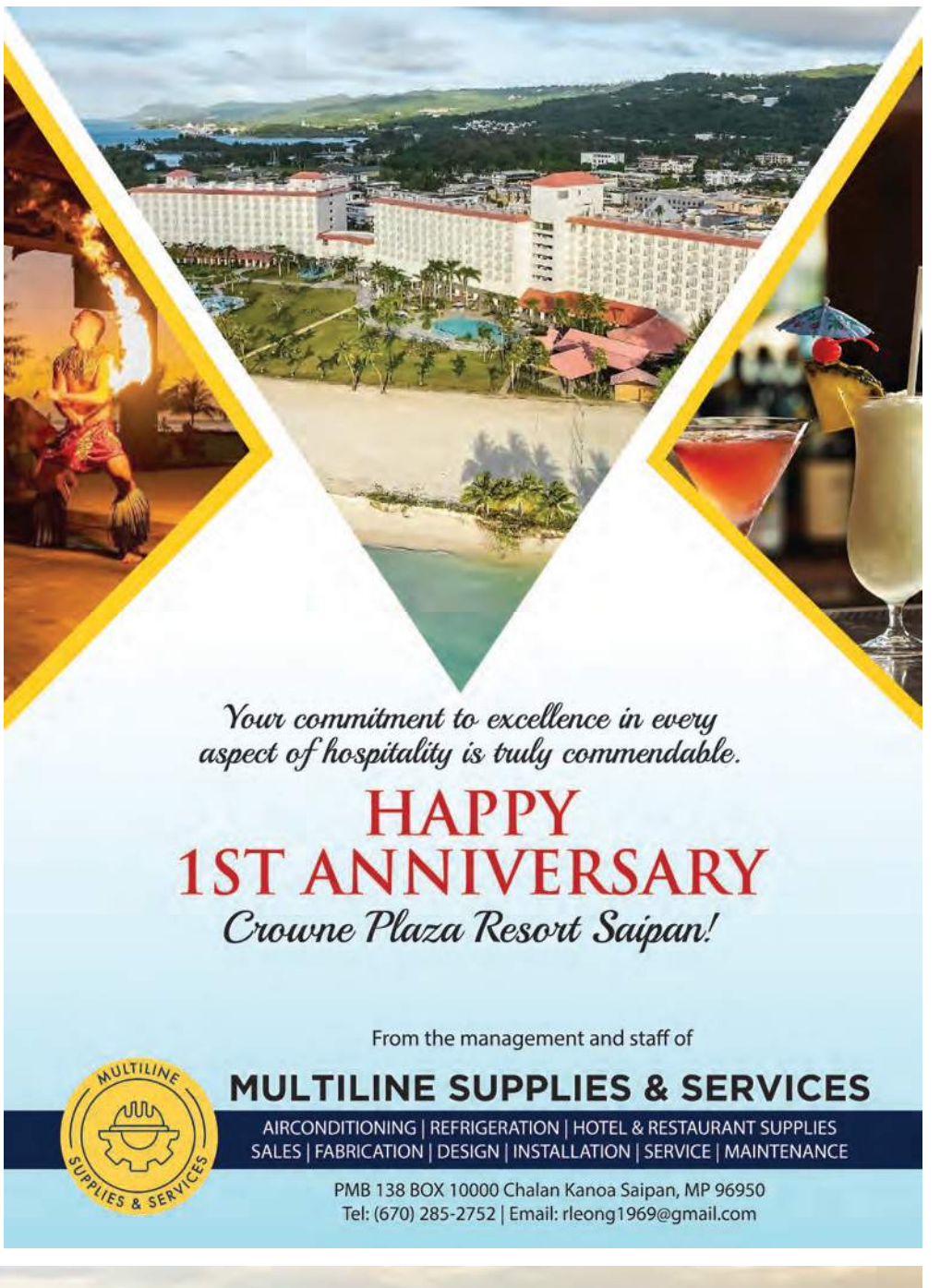
all, who can deny the warm friendly smiles and generosity of the locals," he said.

No stranger to new cultures, Darlington and his family of three. which includes his wife and two young children, look forward to exploring and experiencing the delights of Saipan and the CNMI.

"Thank you for welcoming us with open arms. My family and I are looking forward to embracing every opportunity that comes our way. We are excited to be here and have already tried to explore the island and enroll both our children in local schools. We look forward to creating amazing memories with our children, teaching them about multicultures and how to appreciate the beauty and nature that is all around us," he said.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BEHIND THE SCENES

Meet the team that makes up Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan

By TERI M. FLORES
CORRESPONDENT

Stephen R. Covey, renowned businessman and author of the highly popular *Seven Habits of Highly Successful People*, offers an insight into Crowne Plaza Resorts' belief in its human resources—"Always treat your employees exactly as you want them to treat your best customers."

Behind the success of this globally recognized brand, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan has always given credit to the men and women who have devoted their time to ensure the resort lives up to the standards of exceptional customer service the Crowne Plaza brand is known for.

To stand out in the highly competitive business of establishing its reputation as one of the choice destinations of discriminating global travelers, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan has invested in continuously improving its team's capabilities and competencies, allowing them to provide guests with the ultimate guest experience through exceptional customer service. In return, these team members acknowledge the role Crown Plaza Resort Saipan plays in both their personal and professional lives.

Marla Mettao, PBX operator, Front Office

For 26-year-old Mettao, being a part of the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan team has both been a positive and uplifting experience.

"My work requires me

See TEAM on Page 29

Congratulations on an incredible year of luxury and hospitality.
Happy 1st Anniversary
Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan!
From
Pacific Wine & Spirits

The Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan team.

CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN

TEAM

From page 28

to speak to guests on the phone, and my experience working over the phone has translated into real-life situations. I get to talk to a diverse group of individuals from all over the world. It has helped me gain confidence when interacting with people face-to-face as well," Mettao said.

Mettao, who joined the team early this year, sees her employment at Crowne Plaza as a good stepping stone toward establishing a career in the hospitality industry. "[At Crowne Plaza] I can work on my people skills while showcasing the company's values and its corporate culture."

Mariel Panaligan, supervisor, Food & Beverage

Mariel Panaligan's employment as a member of the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's Food & Beverage team has helped her grow both in her personal and professional life. Being part of the resort's team has opened doors of opportunities for Panaligan that have enriched her career and, most especially, her immediate family's financial stability.

"I am very honored and thankful because Crowne Plaza Resort gave me a chance to grow my career as a hotel professional. It is rewarding to be part of a global brand and my training and exposure at the resort has helped me to go beyond my comfort zone.

"It [my employment] has had a huge impact on my life, especially on my family, since I am the breadwinner. I was able to buy a house in the Philippines and I can consistently help them financially," said Panaligan.

See TEAM on Page 30

Happy 1st Anniversary
Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan!
Congratulations on a year of turning every stay into a remarkable experience.
From the management and staff of
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Wishing you continued success
and excellence as you mark
your first anniversary.
Congratulations
Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan!
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TEAM

From page 29

Panaligan follows in the footsteps of her sister who also works under IHG in the Philippines as team manager for Luxury, Sales & Service.

"I heard a lot of good things about the company, especially the good pay and benefits their team members get," Panaligan said. She chose to join Crowne Plaza because "it is a company that takes good care of its employees. It lives up to its purpose of providing true hospitality for good."

Zenn Tomokane, executive sous chef

Joining the Crowne Plaza team has been a wish fulfilled for this Saipan-born chef. Zenn Tomokane first joined the resort as one of the members of its pre-opening team, eventually staying to become a part of the resort's opening team.

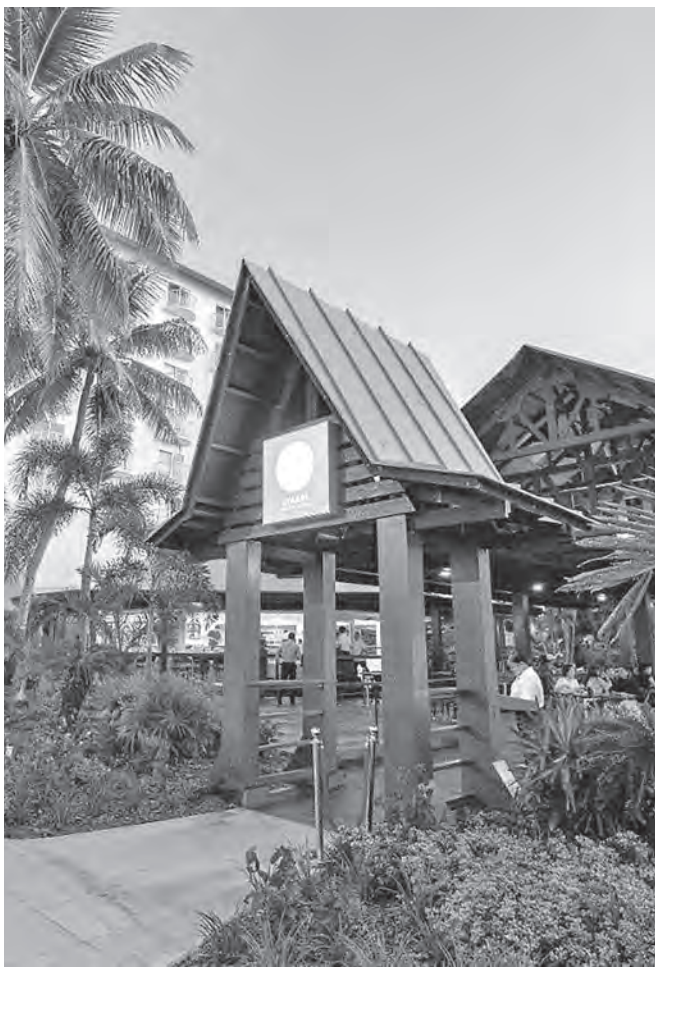
"It is a very rewarding experience to work for IHG, especially at this time when it is carving its niche in the region. This makes me a pioneer of its future success in Micronesia. I look forward to being a part of IHG's success in this region.

"One of the items on my bucket list as a hospitality professional is to work for an opening team and to try my hand at being affiliated with an international brand. I was able to realize these dreams without leaving my home island. Not many can say that they have done this while still being home at the same time. I consider myself fortunate for how this opportunity panned out the way it did. It was a lot of sacrifices, but this has prepared me for my next professional undertaking," said Tomokane.

> **"[Crowne Plaza] is a company that takes good care of its employees. It lives up to its purpose of providing true hospitality for good."**

Tomokane, 40, describes his work at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan as an "everyday celebration on a global scale. "Working for a global brand is a very rewarding experience. Working for IHG at this time as it establishes itself in the region's tourism industry makes me a pioneer of the success they will have in the future here in Micronesia. I look forward to helping IHG in its quest to make its global presence here on the islands."

May your first anniversary mark the start
of a even more incredible journey.
Congratulations
Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan!
FROM THE MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF
Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A commitment to the environment

By TERI M. FLORES
CORRESPONDENT

In this day and age when companies are deemed successes based just on their bottom line, Crowne Plaza Resort is a company that takes its responsibility to the community a notch higher.

As part of IHG Hotels & Resorts, the global hotel brand whose network of properties spans more than 100 countries ran by a 345,000-strong workforce, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is committed to what it believes is its purpose—the delivery of True Hospitality for Good.

"IHG has strong commitments to drive change for people, communities, and the planet through its 'Journey to Tomorrow' initiative," said Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan general manager Clayton Darlington.

This 10-year responsible business plan is IHG's manifesto of care for both its guests and team, and in partnership with hotel owners, to protect the environment and give back to communities where they do business. Ultimately, IHG would like to create a future of responsible travel that champions a diverse culture where all stakeholders enjoy equality, inclusion, and fairness.

Among the programs in which the resort takes an active part in is "Green Engage," an innovative online program that allows individual hotels to measure the impact of the day-to-day hotel operation on the environment.

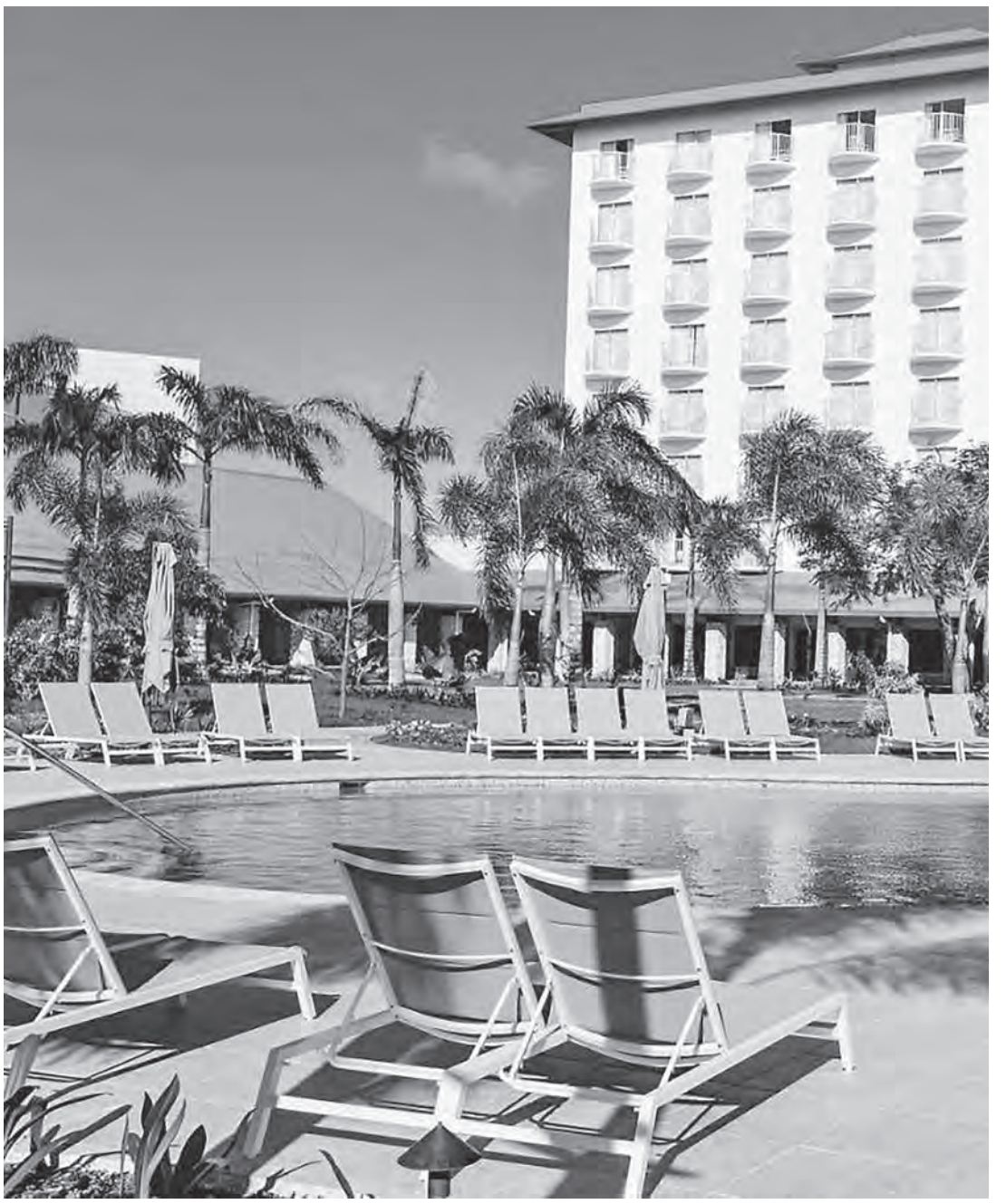
"I am happy to share that the resort is on track in our 2023 energy reduction targets," said Darlington.

Another environmental initiative that Crowne Plaza implements is the "Greener Stay" program that incentivizes guests to conserve energy and water, reduce waste, and reuse products such as towels and linen to help reduce the resort's impact on the environment.

"Sustainability and caring for our environment will always be high priorities for the resort. In line with this, we use sustainable products, do regular beach cleanups and the resort recently opened a new herb garden, upcycling materials to create the garden to produce herbs for the chefs to use in our kitchens," Darlington said.

In addition, initiatives like using bulk bathroom amenities instead of single-use plastic bottles have a very big impact over a 12-month period.

"It's important to keep guests and staff updated on what we're doing, the more committed people are the bigger the impact," he said.



Cheers to a year of exceptional service and unforgettable stays.
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Happy Anniversary

CROWNE PLAZA
RESORT SAIPAN

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Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Nation

Biden pardons Nat'l Thanksgiving Turkeys

AP

President Joe Biden stands next to Liberty, one of the two national Thanksgiving turkeys, after pardoning them during a ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Monday, Nov. 20, 2023.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Turkeys Liberty and Bell have new appreciation for the phrase, "Let freedom ring."

The Thanksgiving birds played their part Monday in annual White House tradition that this year coincided with President Joe Biden 's 81st birthday: a president issuing a pardon and sparing them from becoming someone's holiday dinner.

» While marking his 81st birthday with jokes about his age

First, Biden—the oldest president in U.S. history—wanted to make light of his age.

"By the way, it's my birthday today," the president said, adding that guests in the Oval Office sang "Happy Birthday" to him before the event. "I just want you to know, it's difficult turning 60. Difficult."

He also noted that the presentation of a National Thanksgiving Turkey to the White House has been a tradition for more than seven decades.

"This is the 76th anniversary of this event, and I want you to know I wasn't there at the first one," Biden said. The Democrat's age has become an issue as he seeks reelection next year.

Before issuing the pardons, Biden said that although Liberty and Bell are Minnesota natives, they were named for the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia.

"These birds have a new appreciation for the word, 'let freedom ring,'" he said, adding that they love Honeycrisp apples, ice hockey, a thousand lakes and the Mall of America—all things the Midwest state is famous for. Minnesota is known as the "land of 10,000 lakes."

They overcame "some tough odds" to get to the White House, Biden continued, saying "they had to work hard, show patience and be willing to travel over a thousand miles." He suggested their feat probably was harder than getting a ticket to Beyonce's Renaissance Tour or "Britney's tour, she's down in, it's kind of warm in Brazil right now." He apparently mixed up his female pop stars; Taylor Swift was in Brazil over the weekend for her Eras Tour; Britney Spears currently is not on tour.

"Look folks, based on their commitment to being productive members of society as they head to their new home at the University of Minnesota ... I hereby pardon Liberty and Bell. Congratulations, birds!" Biden declared.

Federal appeals court deals blow to Voting Rights Act

WASHINGTON (AP)—A divided federal appeals court on Monday ruled that private individuals and groups such as the NAACP do not have the ability to sue under a key section of the federal Voting Rights Act, a decision that contradicts decades of precedent and could further erode protections under the landmark 1965 law.

The 2-1 decision by a panel of the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals based in St. Louis found that only the U.S. attorney general can enforce Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, which requires political maps to include districts where minority populations' preferred candidates can win elections.

The majority said other federal laws, including the 1964 Civil Rights Act, make it clear when private groups can sue but said similar wording is not found in the voting law.

"When those details are missing, it is not our place to fill in the gaps, except when 'text and structure' require it," U.S. Circuit Judge David R. Stras wrote for the majority in an opinion joined by Judge Raymond W. Gruender. Stras was nominated by former President Donald Trump and Gruender by former President George W. Bush.

The decision affirmed a lower judge's decision to dismiss a case brought by the Arkansas State Conference NAACP and the Arkansas Public Policy Panel after giving U.S. Attorney General Merrick B. Garland five days to join the lawsuit.

Chief Judge Lavenski R. Smith noted in a dissenting opinion that federal courts across the country and the U.S. Supreme Court have considered numerous cases brought by private plaintiffs under Section 2. Smith said the court should follow "existing precedent that permits a judicial remedy" unless the Supreme Court or Congress decides differently.

"Rights so foundational to self-government and citizenship should not depend solely on the discretion or availability of the government's agents for protection," wrote Smith, another appointee of George W. Bush.

World

Israel battles Hamas near another Gaza hospital sheltering thousands

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israeli forces pressed their offensive against Hamas in northern Gaza on Monday, battling militants around a hospital where thousands of patients and displaced people have been sheltering for weeks, and where despite the fighting health officials managed to evacuate some of the wounded.

A medical worker inside the facility and the Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said a shell struck the second floor of the Indonesian Hospital, killing 12 people. Both blamed Israel, which denied shelling the hospital, saying its troops returned fire on militants who targeted them from inside the 3.5-acre (1.4 hectare) compound.

The Israeli offensive came as 28 premature babies evacuated from Gaza City's Shifa Hospital by the World Health Organization were transported to Egypt on Monday. Three others were transferred to an Emirati-run hospital in Rafah in southern Gaza, the Red Crescent said. More than 250 critically ill or wounded patients remain stranded at the Shifa compound, which Israeli forces stormed days ago.

Gaza's hospitals play a prominent role in the battle of narratives over the war's brutal toll on Palestinian civilians, thousands of whom have been killed or buried in rubble since the conflict was sparked by Hamas' Oct. 7 rampage into southern Israel. In the wake of the assault, Israeli leaders vowed to eradicate Hamas, destroy its ability to rule Gaza and uproot its militant infrastructure.

Israel says Hamas uses civilians as human shields and that the militants operated a major command hub inside and under Shifa, a claim hospital officials and Hamas deny. Critics say Israel's siege and relentless bombardment amount to collective punishment of the territory's 2.3 million Palestinians.

Israeli troops were battling Hamas fighters in the Jabaliya refugee camp, a densely built-up district on Gaza City's northeastern side that has been heavily hit by bombardment for weeks. The military said that after moving through the center of the city to Shifa, its forces were now working to uproot Hamas fighters from eastern areas.

Dozens of dead and wounded in airstrikes and shelling overnight flowed into Indonesian Hospital, near Jabaliya, said Marwan Abdallah, the medical worker there. He said Israeli tanks were operating less than 200 meters (yards) away and Israeli snipers could be seen on the roofs of nearby buildings. As he spoke on the phone, the sound of gunfire could be heard in the background.

Hamas' Health Ministry spokesperson, Ashraf al-Qidra, said roughly 200 wounded patients and their companions were evacuated from the hospital to southern Gaza in a rescue effort coordinated by the U.N. and the International Committee for the Red Cross. Many of the evacuees were being treated at al-Nasser hospital in the southern town of Khan Younis, he said.

Between 400 and 500 wounded remain at Indonesia Hospital, Ashraf told Al-Jazeera. Some 2,000 displaced Palestinians also are sheltering there.

In a separate development that could relieve some of the pressure on Gaza's collapsing health system, dozens of trucks entered from Egypt on Monday with equipment from Jordan to set up a field hospital. Jordan's state-run media said the hospital in Khan Younis would be up and running within 48 hours.

CLAIMS ABOUT SHIFA

More than 250 patients with severely infected wounds and other urgent conditions remain in Shifa. The complex can no longer provide most of the wounded there treatment after it ran out of water, medical supplies and fuel for emergency generators.

Israeli forces battled Palestinian militants outside its gates for days before entering the facility on Wednesday.

Austin meets with Zelenskyy in Kyiv to show steadfast support for Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin made an unannounced visit to Kyiv on Monday in a high-profile push to keep money and weapons flowing to Ukraine even as U.S. and international resources are stretched by the new global risks raised by the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Austin, who traveled to Kyiv by train from Poland, met with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Defense Minister Rustem Umerov and Chief of Staff Gen. Valerii Zaluzhnyi.

While there Austin announced the Pentagon would be sending an additional $100 million in weapons to Ukraine from U.S. existing stockpiles, including artillery and munitions for air defense systems. The package also includes another High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS.

Austin said Ukraine's effort to defeat Russian forces "matters to the rest of the world" and that U.S. support would continue "for the long haul."

Zelenskyy said Austin's visit was "a very important signal" for Ukraine. "We count on your support," Zelenskyy said, thanking Congress as well as the American people for their backing.

This is Austin's second trip to Kyiv since Russia's 2022 invasion, but he's making it under far different circumstances, as the world's attention is drawn to the Middle East and signs of fatigue set in with the almost 21-month Russia-Ukraine war.

Austin's first visit occurred in April 2022, just two months after the start of the war. At the time, Ukraine was riding a wave of global rage at Moscow's invasion, and Austin launched an international effort that now sees 50 countries meet monthly to coordinate on what weapons, training and other support could be pushed to Kyiv.

But the conflict in Gaza could pull attention and resources from the Ukraine fight. The U.S. has worked feverishly since the Oct. 7 attacks by Hamas on Israel, and the weeks of devastating bombardment on Gaza by Israel that has followed, to prevent the conflict from turning into a regional war. Even as Austin stood in St. Michael's Square in Kyiv, the first question asked at a press briefing at the end of the short visit was about Israel's use of U.S.-provided weapons in that conflict, instead of about Ukraine.

Life & Style

Taylor Swift's Rio tour marred by deaths, muggings and a dangerous heat wave

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—The deaths of two people, muggings and a dangerous heat wave left legions of Taylor Swift's Brazilian fans angry and disappointed in the three-day Rio de Janeiro leg of the pop superstar's Eras Tour, which concludes Monday night.

Gabriel Mongenot Santana Milhomem Santos, 25, a fan who had traveled from the country's center-west region to see Swift, was stabbed to death on a Copacabana beach about 3 a.m. Monday, Rio's police said in a statement.

It was the second death of a Swift fan in four days. On Friday, 23-year-old Ana Clara Benevides Machado fell ill during the singer's first show in the city, and died later that evening at a hospital.

Fans also reported fainting from extreme heat, being mugged or getting caught up in a police raid.

Rio's Municipal Health Department said Benevides, who, according to a friend, passed out during Swift's second song, "Cruel Summer," experienced cardiorespiratory arrest, but the exact cause of her death is not yet known. Rio's Forensic Medical Institute examined the body Saturday and said additional laboratory tests had to be conducted, the online news site G1 reported.

In a statement posted on Instagram, Swift said Benevides' death left her with a "shattered heart."

Before the show Friday, fans lined up for hours outside the Nilton Santos Olympic Stadium where temperatures soared to 41 degrees Celsius (105 Fahrenheit), with a heat index of nearly 59 C (138 F). Inside the stadium, concertgoers complained of unbearable heat and some said they had difficulty getting access to water.

"I didn't imagine that my dream could turn into a nightmare," said fan Kléssia Menezes, who told R7 TV that she had gotten stuck with hundreds of other people on one of the ramps to a VIP area

AP

Taylor Swift fans wait for the doors of Nilton Santos Olympic stadium to open for her Eras Tour concert amid a heat wave in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023.

Saturday as security officers blocked the entrance.

Once security let them through, she said, people started running and she fell on a hot metallic floor that burned her leg and back.

"They took me to the doctor ... and I saw that I wasn't the only person to have fallen in this chaos," she said. "Many people fell and burned themselves."

Ultimately, that night's show was postponed, after tens of thousands of fans had spent hours lining up in the heat. Swift announced on Instagram that it was necessary "due to the extreme temperatures in Rio."

A fan who identified herself as Julia Alvarenga said she was upset that Swift didn't decide to cancel earlier.

"My friend, can you see how much I'm sweating, how all the pores in my body are dilated from the sweat?" Alvarenga asked, visibly angry, in a video posted on X, formerly known as Twitter. She then pointed to her waist, highlighting the extreme measures she had taken to attend a concert for which she knew she would stand in line for hours. "I'm wearing a diaper, a geriatric diaper," she says, urging the artist to appear. "Come on stage, I want to see you!"

The postponement was followed by chaos outside the stadium. Under a light rain, a mass of concertgoers left the area, which is close to one of Rio's working-class neighborhoods, known as favelas.

Videos shared on social media showed groups of pickpockets robbing fans of their belongings, scenes not so unusual to Rio residents, but far from the postcards many tourists have seen of the "cidade maravilhosa."

Many took refuge inside a Burger King, ducking for cover under tables and behind the counter in the kitchen area. Heavily armed police raided the fast food restaurant's basement as loud sirens blared and those stuck outside the restaurant shouted. Some of those who were able to escape in taxis were overcharged by the drivers.

Shakira reaches deal with Spanish prosecutors on first day of tax fraud trial

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—After having maintained her innocence for nearly five years, pop star Shakira struck a last-minute deal on the opening day of her tax fraud trial in Barcelona to avoid the risk of going to prison.

Shakira told the presiding magistrate, José Manuel del Amo, on Monday that she accepted the agreement reached with prosecutors. She answered "yes" to confirm her acknowledgment of six counts of failing to pay the Spanish government 14.5 million euros (about $15.8 million) in taxes between 2012 and 2014.

The trial, which was expected to include more than 100 witnesses over several weeks, was instead called off after just eight minutes.

Under the deal, Shakira is to receive a suspended three-year sentence and to pay a fine of 7.3 million euros ($8 million) in addition to the previously unpaid taxes and interest. She will pay another fine of 432,000 euros ($472,000) in exchange for having her prison sentence waived.

However, she now has it on her legal record that she was found guilty of tax fraud, which could affect another pending tax case.

The fraud allegations had hinged on where Shakira, now 46, lived during 2012-14. Prosecutors in Barcelona alleged the Colombian singer spent more than half of that period in Spain and therefore should have paid taxes on her worldwide income there even though her official residence was still in the Bahamas. Tax rates are much lower in the Bahamas than in Spain.

Prosecutors said in July that they would seek a prison sentence of eight years and two months and a fine of 24 million euros ($26 million) for the singer, who has won over a fans around the global with her hits in Spanish and English in different musical genres.

Teen's wardrobe choices are too much for one mom

DEAR ABBY: I am a fairly laid-back mom of a wonderful 13-year-old daughter. Her friends are nice kids, but some of them dress pretty provocatively. I have seen them wear super-short shorts that are very "cheeky" and tops that really expose their assets.

We have been invited to a party at a friend's home, and my daughter is allowed to bring a friend. The friend she has chosen to invite regularly dresses in very provocative attire, and I would feel more comfortable if I knew she was going to dress "appropriately" by my standards.

I don't know what to do. Should I talk to the parents? (Cringe!) Ask my daughter to tell her friend what the dress code is and to convey "Wear something that doesn't show your butt cheeks"? Or must I ignore it and hope for the best?

OVEREXPOSED IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR OVEREXPOSED: Many teenage girls let it all hang out in an effort to attract attention. I do not think you should talk to the girl's mother because I don't think your comments would be warmly welcomed. Instead, ask your daughter to talk to her friend and suggest that for THIS occasion, it would be better to cover up more than she usually does because the hosts are old-fashioned and can be judgmental—just like you.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 45-year-old male who has been trying for a long time to change my attitude. I'm a really nice person when things are going well, but when things get tough, I turn nasty. I talk to myself some mornings about reacting better to situations, but then I react as I always do when things are hard.

I found out four years ago that I'm bipolar, but I don't want to use this as an excuse. I also quit weed three years ago in the hope that things would stabilize in my life, which has helped a lot. I used to get panic attacks, which stopped when I quit weed. Still, I don't like the way I treat people when my mood is down. I don't have the means for therapy, so that is not an option. Do you have any advice for me?

MEANIE IN FLORIDA

DEAR MEANIE: Be glad you have pinpointed what your problem actually is. I hope you are receiving treatment for your bipolar disorder. However, if you are not, then your next step should be to find a nearby college or university that has a department of psychology and talk to a professor there about what low-cost mental health services they may be able to provide.

If this is not an option, inquire at your county's department of mental health. You may be surprised to find that help is available on a sliding fee scale. I wish you luck in your search.

■ ■ ■

DEAR READERS: Tomorrow is Thanksgiving, and no Thanksgiving would be complete without sharing the traditional prayer penned by my dear, late mother:

Oh, Heavenly Father,

We thank Thee for food and remember the hungry.
We thank Thee for health and remember the sick.
We thank Thee for friends and remember the friendless.
We thank Thee for freedom and remember the enslaved.
May these remembrances stir us to service.
That Thy gifts to us may be used for others.
Amen.

Have a happy and safe celebration, everyone!

LOVE, ABBY

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

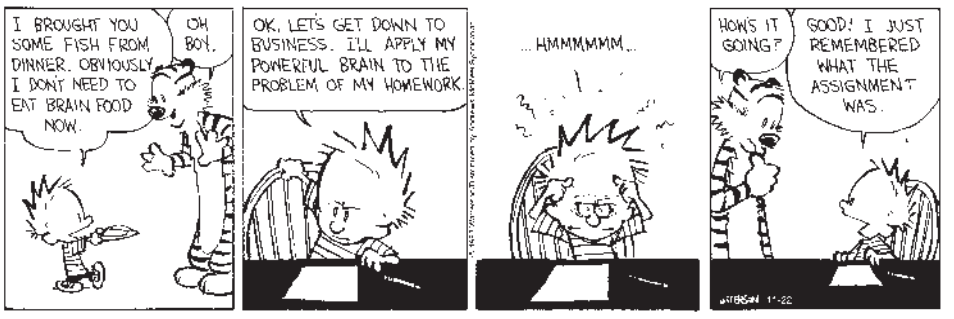
By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I BROUGHT YOU SOME FISH FROM DINNER. OBVIOUSLY I DON'T NEED TO EAT BRAIN FOOD NOW.
OH BOY.
OK, LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS. I'LL APPLY MY POWERFUL BRAIN TO THE PROBLEM OF MY HOMEWORK.
...HMMMMMM...
HOW'S IT GOING?
GOOD! I JUST REMEMBERED WHAT THE ASSIGNMENT WAS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HELLO, MA'AM. WHAT CAN I GET FOR YOU?
A LARGE ICED GREEN TEA.
ANDRE? DO WE SELL TEA HERE?
WE DO, ADAM.
NEWS TO ME.
THE GAGGING AND LOOK OF DISGUST ARE WORKING AGAINST YOUR TIP.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I COULD GIVE YOU SOME GOOD-LOOKING KIDS.
WITH YOUR GENES? YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING.
I MEANT I HAVE DECENT PHOTOSHOP SKILLS AND COULD TOUCH UP THEIR HOMELY SCHOOL PHOTOS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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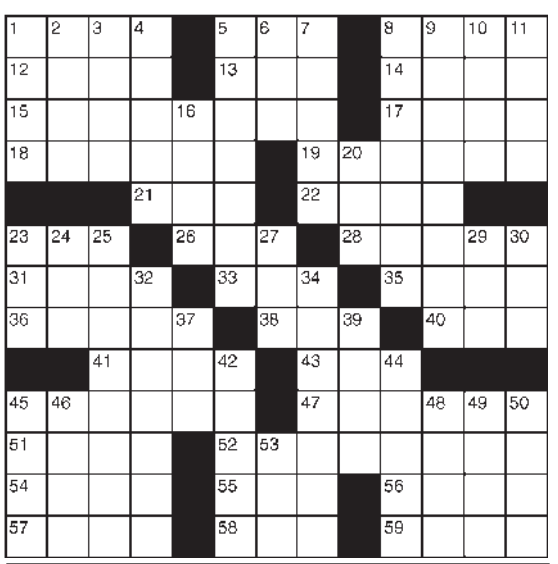
45 Bar
46 Madame Bovary
48 Latin 101 word
49 Tibetan monk
50 "NFL Live" channel
53 — Jima

Solution time: 23 mins.

B	U	D	D	■	D	Y	E	■	G	O	L	D
C	P	E	C	■	R	A	Y	■	A	M	O	I
G	O	A	S	I	I	O	R	E	■	L	E	N	D
S	N	L	■	E	O	N	■	T	A	N	G	O
■	■	■	G	A	P	■	L	E	A	■	■	■
S	H	A	R	D	■	D	I	A	P	E	R	S
A	O	N	E	■	A	O	I	■	P	T	A	S
M	O	N	A	R	C	H	■	S	L	E	W	S
■	■	■	T	E	T	■	M	O	E	■	■	■
B	R	E	A	D	■	B	A	R	■	E	B	B
R	E	A	P	■	C	I	V	E	A	W	A	Y
I	N	H	L	■	A	D	L	■	H	L	N	O
I	E	S	S	■	B	E	N	■	C	H	A	B

Yesterday's answer 11-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Scarlett Johansson, 39; Mark Ruffalo, 56; Jamie Lee Curtis, 65; Steve Van Zandt, 73.

Happy Birthday: Show confidence in all that you pursue this year; you'll make headway. Your insight, creativity and desire to bring about positive change will unfold if you take the initiative. Believe in yourself and refuse to let outside influences come between you and your plans. Get rid of what doesn't matter to you anymore, and you'll have more time and energy to target your goal. Your numbers are 6, 14, 17, 29, 33, 35, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Learning from your mistakes and observing others will help you figure out how to get ahead. An investment opportunity will change how you make or handle your money. An honest assessment of a situation will be necessary. Get expert advice if warranted. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't let anyone interfere with your plans or cause you to miss an opportunity to network. Take advantage of someone else's inability to act spontaneously. Keep your eyes open and your finger on the pulse; you will be ready for whatever comes your way. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't take on debt, problems or responsibilities that don't belong to you. Someone will blame you if you let them. Get your facts straight, but don't take over. Your best results will come from self-improvement, not changing others. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Connect with people you trust to give you good advice or offer interesting alternatives. Don't let your emotions overrule what you know is the right thing to pursue. A physical challenge will help you blow off steam and make better decisions. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Stick to your original plan. If you let someone intervene or confuse you, getting back on track won't be easy. Put your head down and don't stop until you are happy with the results you achieve. Celebrate your accomplishments. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You'll be right on point. Raise your energy a notch and streamline your way to the top. Your navigation skills and insight into what's possible will help you reach your destination. Opportunity and positive change are apparent. Don't waste time on trivial matters. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Network and use your Libra charm to woo people into seeing things your way. Someone will fact-check you, so don't drift from the truth. An update to your image and presentation will help you take your pursuit to the next level. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Do something that motivates you, and the inspiration you gain will also ground you. Trust your intuition and implement discipline to motivate you to stick to what excites you most. An unusual opportunity will change your life. Refuse to let anything stand in your way. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Reassemble your thoughts. Refuse to let anyone dictate what you do next. Don't share information or give anyone a chance to manipulate you or make you look bad. Use your charm to ward off trouble. Maintain control and stick close to home. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* See what's brewing outside your confines and branch out emotionally. Let your intuition reveal what's necessary, but don't disregard common sense. A structural change in your life will also bring about new beginnings and connections that can transform how you proceed. Explore and expand. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Maintain good health and well-being. Do whatever will enrich your life, make you marketable and keep your finger on the pulse of what's meaningful to you. Choose a healthy lifestyle and invest more time and money in pursuing what makes you feel good about yourself. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Create opportunities instead of waiting for things to come to you. Own the stage, and don't be afraid to follow yourself instead of thinking or believing someone else is a better leader. Only you know what your heart desires; do what makes you happy. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are disciplined, unorthodox and passionate. You are intuitive and well-versed

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

						5		3
			4	2		8		
	1		8	7		6		9
	4	1						
	6	8		3	7	4	1	2
	7			1		3		
	2		7	8				
8			3		1		5	
	3	6				7	9	8

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/22

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	8	5	1	4	6	9	2	3
1	3	2	7	9	8	4	6	5
9	6	4	3	2	5	8	1	7
4	5	9	2	8	1	3	7	6
2	7	3	4	6	9	1	5	8
8	1	6	5	3	7	2	9	4
6	2	1	8	5	3	7	4	9
3	9	7	6	1	4	5	8	2
5	4	8	9	7	2	6	3	1

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Difficulty: ★★ 11/21

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK **Solution: 6 letters**

T	I	M	M	U	S	R	E	T	A	W	D	A	E	H
R	S	S	L	L	A	F	A	T	R	E	B	L	A	C
A	I	E	S	T	E	S	P	A	R	K	E	G	L	R
I	R	V	R	A	N	G	E	R	H	W	U	I	H	E
L	A	D	E	O	W	L	C	A	E	E	M	W	I	E
R	L	E	N	R	F	O	W	J	S	A	O	A	K	K
I	T	E	F	U	L	K	L	M	T	D	F	S	E	W
D	I	R	E	O	T	E	A	Ⓔ	A	I	S	U	C	A
G	T	P	R	I	M	E	Ⓛ	E	S	N	P	M	U	T
E	U	A	N	E	R	Ⓚ	M	H	P	S	R	M	R	E
R	D	E	R	D	A	E	P	O	L	S	A	E	P	R
O	E	A	N	S	K	Y	P	O	N	D	G	R	S	F
A	L	A	A	T	I	U	Q	I	H	C	U	N	G	A
D	R	A	E	B	P	R	E	H	T	A	E	W	O	L
G	L	A	C	I	E	R	G	O	R	G	E	K	A	L

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Alberta Falls, Altitude, Bear, Chiquita, Climate, Colorado, Creek, Deer, Dream, Elk, Emerald, Estes Park, Fern, Fish, Forest, Glacier Gorge, Grand, Grass, Hagues, Hawk, Headwaters, Hike, Jewel, Lake, Longs Peak, Meadow, Owl, Pika, Ranger, River, Sky Pond, Slope, Sprague, Spruce, Summer, Summit, Trail Ridge Road, Tundra, Waterfall, Weather

Yesterday's Answer: Cloak

Purchase the **NEW Treasuries 55 and 56** in time for the holidays at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367!

Curry extends NBA 3-point shooting record as Warriors top Rockets

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Stephen Curry scored 32 points with five 3-pointers to extend his latest NBA record, Klay Thompson broke out of his shooting slump with a season-high 20 points, and the Golden State Warriors snapped their six-game losing streak with a 121-116 win over the Houston Rockets on Monday night.

Already the league's all-time leader in made 3-pointers, Curry is the first player in league history to have four or more in his first 13 games to start a season. The nine-time All-Star and two-time MVP was 8 of 14 from the floor and 5 of 9 beyond the arc.

It's Curry's seventh game this season with 30 or more points, and 10th with at least 25.

Thompson entered the night shooting 15 of 42 (3 of 19 from 3-point range) over his previous four games but came out strong early against the Rockets with three 3s and 12 points in the first quarter. He finished 7 of 16 and had five 3-pointers.

Chris Paul added 15 points and 12 assists helping Golden State to its 12th consecutive win against Houston.

One night after a one-point loss to the Lakers, the Rockets trailed by 14 and were behind by double digits much of the night.

Alperen Sengun had 30 points and 13 rebounds for Houston. Jabari Smith Jr. scored 17, and Dillon Brooks and Jalen Green each had 16.

The Rockets, winless in five road games this season, haven't beaten the Warriors since Feb. 20, 2020.

Curry got off to a slow start but made a four-point play late in the second quarter to go with a pair of 3s. He made his milestone fourth 3-pointer late in the third quarter to put the Warriors ahead 100-87.

AP

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry reacts after making a 3-point basket and getting fouled during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Houston Rockets in San Francisco, Monday, Nov. 20, 2023.

BUCKS 142, WIZARDS 129

WASHINGTON (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 42 points on 20-of-23 shooting, and the Milwaukee Bucks won their fifth consecutive game, 142-129 over the Washington Wizards on Monday night.

Washington dropped its sixth straight, but not without putting up a decent fight against the star-studded Bucks.

Antetokounmpo shot 87.0% from the field, the highest mark in a game by a player with at least 20 attempts since Mike Woodson of the Kansas City Kings went 22 of 24 (91.7%) in a 48-point effort against the Houston Rockets on Feb. 20, 1983. Antetokounmpo also contributed 13 rebounds and eight assists.

Jordan Poole scored 30 points for Washington, and Kyle Kuzma added 22 points and 13 assists.

Damian Lillard scored 22 points for the Bucks. Khris Middleton scored 18 to move past Sidney Moncrief and into fourth place on Milwaukee's career scoring list.

NUGGETS 107, PISTONS 103

DETROIT (AP)—Reggie Jackson scored 21 points and carried Denver in the fourth quarter after two-time MVP Nikola Jokic was ejected in the first half, and the Nuggets handed Detroit its 12th straight loss.

Jackson had eight points and three assists in the final period as he and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope (20 points) shined against their former team. Michael Porter Jr. finished with 14 points and 11 rebounds for the defending NBA champion Nuggets (10-4).

Jokic and Denver coach Michael Malone were ejected after arguing calls. Malone was thrown out for coming onto the court to dispute a call late in the first quarter, and Jokic was tossed for picking up a second technical with 1:22 left in the second period.

Jokic finished with nine points, five rebounds and five assists in 15 minutes.

Cade Cunningham had 27 points and nine assists for the Pistons (2-13), while Marvin Bagley III finished with 18 points.

HORNETS 121, CELTICS 118, OT

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Miles Bridges hit a 3-pointer with 6.6 seconds left in overtime and Charlotte beat Boston to snap a six-game home losing streak.

LaMelo Ball finished with 36 points, nine rebounds and eight assists, and Gordon Hayward added 20 points for the Hornets, who rallied from an 18-point deficit.

Jayson Tatum finished with 45 points, but missed a free throw with 5.2 seconds left that would have tied the game after getting fouled on a 3-point shot. He had made the first two before the crucial miss.

Gordon Hayward made two free throws to put Charlotte back up by three points with 0.8 left, and Bridges stole the inbounds pass to seal the win.

Peyton Pritchard had 21 points on five 3s for Boston, which had its six-game winning streak snapped.

CLIPPERS 124, SPURS 99

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Paul George scored 28 points, Kawhi Leonard added 21 and Los Angeles rolled past Victor Wembanyama and San Antonio, extending the Spurs' losing streak to nine games.

James Harden added 13 points and 10 assists as Los Angeles won its sixth straight over San Antonio.

The Clippers won their second straight game with Harden after dropping their first five games since acquiring him from Philadelphia.

Wembanyama, the No. 1 pick in the draft, was held to nine points and three rebounds. Keldon Johnson had 22 points and 10 rebounds to lead San Antonio and Cedi Osman scored 17 points.

The Spurs' losing streak matches the fifth-longest in franchise history.

HEAT 118, BULLS 100

CHICAGO (AP)—Bam Adebayo had 23 points and 11 rebounds, and Miami topped Chicago, two nights after blowing a 21-point lead in the same building.

Jimmy Butler scored 16 points against his former team, while Adebayo earned his eighth double-double of the season.

The Heat have won eight of their last nine games after a 1-4 start to the season. Zach LaVine was limited to 13 points on a season-low nine shot attempts. Alex Caruso also finished with 13 points along with a block and a steal.

Coby White led the Bulls with a season-high 20 points, including four 3-pointers. Nikola Vucevic scored 18 points, and DeMar DeRozan added 15.

Rookie forward Jaime Jaquez Jr. scored 19 points and Kevin Love added 11 points and eight rebounds for a Heat bench unit that combined for 42 points, compared to 21 for the Bulls' reserves.

TIMBERWOLVES 117, KNICKS 100

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Anthony Edwards had 23 points, 10 rebounds and five assists, Karl-Anthony Towns scored 20 points, and Western Conference-leading Minnesota beat New York Knicks.

Minnesota (10-3) is 6-0 at home—tying a franchise record to start a season—and has won nine of its past 10 games.

Jalen Brunson scored 25 points and Julius Randle had 21 for New York, which shot 34.8% (32 of 92) to Minnesota's 51.3%.

Rudy Gobert scored 16 points for the Wolves. Minnesota forward Jaden McDaniels left with a sprained right ankle in the first quarter and didn't return. That opened up extended minutes for Nickeil Alexander-Walker, who finished with 11 points, three rebounds and three assists.

Naz Reid added 10 points as the Wolves' bench outscored New York's reserves 43-30.

PELICANS 129, KINGS 93

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Brandon Ingram hit all five of his 3-pointers and led all scorers with 31 points, and Zion Williamson dominated the paint by scoring 26 points on 12-for-16 shooting to power New Orleans over Sacramento.

The Pelicans trailed 47-43 midway through the second quarter and used a 44-10 scoring outburst spanning the second and third quarters to build an 87-57 lead.

Harrison Barnes scored 16 points and De'Aaron Fox 14 for Pacific Division-leading Sacramento. Fox and Donatus Sabonis, who finished with 10 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists, did not play in the fourth quarter.

Nuggets' Jokic, coach Malone ejected in first half of game against Pistons

DETROIT (AP)—Nikola Jokic and Nuggets coach Michael Malone were ejected in the first half of Denver's game at Detroit on Monday night.

Jokic received his first technical for arguing a call in the first quarter. Malone was ejected for going onto the court to dispute a call late in the period. Jokic was tossed after arguing another call with 1:22 left in the first half.

Jokic had nine points, five rebounds and five assists in 15:13 minutes before being tossed.

Knee injuries put Grizzlies' Kennard out at least 2 weeks, Tillman week to week

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Memphis Grizzlies guard Luke Kennard will miss a minimum of two weeks recovering from a bone bruise in his left knee and forward Xavier Tillman Sr. now is considered week to week recovering from his own injured left knee.

The Grizzlies provided the update Monday. Kennard played only six minutes Nov. 14 in a loss in Los Angeles to the Lakers and had missed the past two games. Memphis said Kennard, acquired at the trade deadline last season, will be reevaluated in two weeks.

Tillman has been Memphis' fifth-leading scorer averaging 9.3 points and second with 6.7 rebounds a game. He also was hurt in that same loss to the Lakers, playing 22 minutes before leaving the game.

Memphis already has two-time All-Star guard Ja Morant suspended for the first 25 games this season, and center Steven Adams was ruled out before the season started due to needing surgery for a knee first hurt last January. Brandon Clarke is busy recovering from a left Achilles tendon torn last March.

The Grizzlies announced Nov. 17 that guard Marcus Smart will miss three to five weeks with a sprained left foot, adding to their lengthy injury list. The 2022 NBA Defensive Player of the Year, acquired via a trade this offseason, played all of eight minutes before he hurt his foot in that same loss to the Lakers.

The Grizzlies (3-10) visit Houston on Wednesday and went into Monday night's games tied with Portland and San Antonio at the bottom of the Western Conference.

Hurts leads 2nd-half rally as Eagles beat Chiefs in Super Bowl rematch

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Philadelphia Eagles insisted that their Super Bowl rematch with the Kansas City Chiefs had nothing to do with revenge.

They got a little bit of it anyway.

After allowing the Chiefs to methodically build a 10-point halftime lead Monday night, the Eagles shut out Patrick Mahomes and Co. over the final 30 minutes. Jalen Hurts overcame a poor start in a cold, driving rain to run for a pair of touchdowns, and his go-ahead tush-push in the fourth quarter allowed the Eagles to walk away with a 21-17 victory.

"We weren't thinking, 'Hey, we're coming up here to avenge a loss,'" Eagles coach Nick Sirianni said afterward. "That's a different magnitude of game. That was for everything. So we're just pleased to get the win tonight."

Besides, Sirianni said, "they ain't giving us the rings back. I know that."

Still, the Eagles (9-1) became the first team to win at least nine of their first 10 games in consecutive seasons since the Colts in 2005-06, and they did it by beating former coach Andy Reid for the first time in five tries since he landed in Kansas City.

Eagles center Jason Kelce also got the best of little brother Travis Kelce for the first time. The Chiefs tight end could have used some luck from pop star and love interest Taylor Swift, who had to miss the game—he fumbled the ball away in the red zone in the fourth quarter, when Kansas City was trying to extend a 17-14 lead.

AP

Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts celebrates after scoring on a 1-yard run during the second half of an NFL football game against the Kansas City Chiefs, Monday, Nov. 20, 2023, in Kansas City, Mo.

The Chiefs still had a chance with less than 2 minutes to go, converting on fourth down and getting help from a roughing-the-passer penalty. But a perfectly placed ball from Mahomes went right through the hands of Marquez Valdes-Scantling for a would-be 51-yard touchdown, and the Eagles stopped Kansas City on fourth down to put the game away.

"This is a growing moment for us as a team, overall," Chiefs defensive tackle Chris Jones said.

Hurts threw for just 150 yards with a pick, but he made the plays Mahomes could not in the second half. He also got some help from D'Andre Swift, who ran for 76 yards and a score, and DeVonta Smith, who caught six balls for 99 yards.

"I don't think we played clean tonight. I don't think we played to our standard," Hurts said. "But I think the one thing you can't quantify is the resilience that a team has, and the ability to see through things, and this team has that."

It was only the ninth time that two teams that played in the Super Bowl met in the regular season the following year, and the champion had won the previous four matchups. The last to lose was Dallas against Buffalo during the 1993 season.

Mahomes was held to 177 yards passing with two touchdowns and an interception in the end zone. Isiah Pacheco added 89 yards rushing for the Chiefs, who couldn't overcome their two red-zone turnovers and a plethora of penalties.

"I think offensively," Mahomes said, "I'm just not where I want to be at this point in the season."

Unlike the Super Bowl, when the Eagles blew a 10-point halftime lead, the Chiefs took a 17-7 lead to the break Monday night.

It was knotted 7-all after Hurts and Mahomes traded first-quarter touchdown throws, and it was still tied when Mahomes hit Kelce on third down for the go-ahead TD with 1:45 left. And when the Eagles got the ball back, sacks by Trent McDuffie and George Karlaftis made them give it right back with 44 seconds remaining.

Plenty of time for Mahomes to get the Chiefs within range for Harrison Butker to add a 43-yard field goal.

But for all the praise the Chiefs get for their prolific offense, they've been abysmal in the second half this season, scoring a league-low 53 points entering Monday night. And after two quick punts to start the half, Philadelphia finally capitalized on the good field position, marching downfield before Hurts finished the drive with a 10-yard touchdown run.

The Chiefs kept beating themselves — and the Eagles kept taking advantage.

Along with penalties that derailed their first two drives of the second half, Kelce fumbled the ball away at the Philadelphia 8 early in the fourth quarter. And when the Chiefs got the ball back and had to punt a few minutes later, Justin Watson was unable to down the ball at the Philadelphia 1, resulting in a touchback that gave Hurts and Co. some breathing room.

They proceeded to go 80 yards the other way, and Hurts' sneak gave Philadelphia the lead for good in the fourth quarter.

"It's the resiliency and togetherness that really stood out to me tonight," Sirianni said, "and I can't say enough about the defense. I can't say enough about the job our defense and our defensive staff did."

NFL BRIEFS

NFL suspends Broncos' Jackson 4 games for another illegal hit in return from first suspension

DENVER (AP)—The NFL suspended Denver Broncos safety Kareem Jackson four games without pay on Monday for repeated violations of the league's playing rules intended to protect players.

Jackson's latest banishment stemmed from his hit on Minnesota Vikings quarterback Joshua Dobbs on Sunday night in Jackson's first game back from his first suspension for an illegal hit on Packers tight end Luke Musgrave on Oct. 22. The 14th-year pro acknowledged upon his return from suspension last week that he couldn't guarantee he'd keep from getting in the NFL's crosshairs again for his overly aggressive play, and it didn't take long for him to prove it. On the game's third snap, Jackson led with the crown of his helmet on a third-and-1 run by Dobbs, jarring the ball loose. No flag was thrown and nickel cornerback Ja'Quan McMillian jumped on the loose ball at the Vikings 30-yard line.

Steelers bring back Myles Jack out of retirement for stretch run

PITTSBURGH (AP)—So much for Myles Jack's retirement. The Pittsburgh Steelers signed the veteran inside linebacker to the practice squad on Monday, three months after Jack stepped away from the game in the middle of training camp with the Philadelphia Eagles. Pittsburgh (6-4) needs help at inside linebacker following season-ending injuries to Cole Holcomb and Kwon Alexander in recent weeks. Elandon Roberts played every defensive snap in a 13-10 loss to Cleveland on Sunday, with Mykal Walker—signed to the practice squad in late October before being promoted to the active roster last week—taking the majority of the snaps at the other inside linebacker spot. The 28-year-old Jack spent the 2022 season with Pittsburgh after playing six seasons in Jacksonville. Jack led the Steelers with 104 tackles last season, but was slowed by injuries late in the season and then released in March.

Drop-prone Chiefs get shut out in second half for third straight time

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—The Kansas City Chiefs had scored an NFL-worst 53 points in the second half of games this season, which equates to just under six points per game, and they had scored a single touchdown in the fourth quarter through their first nine games.

They sure could have used about six more points Monday night.

Instead, they got none. Again.

The Chiefs were shut out in the second half for the third consecutive game, this time by the Philadelphia Eagles in their highly anticipated rematch, allowing Jalen Hurts and Co. to rally from a 10-point deficit for a 21-17 win at Arrowhead Stadium.

Whether it was penalties, red-zone turnovers or a crucial dropped pass in the closing minutes, the Chiefs (7-3) made the kind of mistakes on offense that have been rare since Andy Reid — who had never lost in four tries against his former team — took over as their coach in 2013 and Patrick Mahomes began his prolific career as their starting quarterback in 2018.

Mahomes was held to 177 yards with two touchdowns and an interception in the end zone by the Eagles, who only sacked him once but applied plenty of pressure the rest of the night. Travis Kelce was his top target, catching seven passes for 44 yards and a score, but he likewise turned the ball over in the red zone when he fumbled it away in the fourth quarter.

The Eagles pounced on the opportunity, driving 80 yards for the go-ahead touchdown with about six minutes left in the game.

Even after the teams traded punts, the Chiefs still had a chance, getting the ball back at their own 9-yard line with 2:49 left on the clock. That would have been plenty of time the past few years, but not this one.

The Chiefs managed to convert a fourth down and took advantage of a roughing-the-passer penalty to get near midfield before everything went haywire.

Mahomes threw incomplete. Then he threw a perfect ball to Marquez Valdes-Scantling that would have been a 51-yard go-ahead touchdown had it not gone right through his hands. Then came an intentional grounding penalty and another incompletion on a catchable ball from Mahomes to Justin Watson.

Game over.

The final drive was a microcosm of the way the second half went for Kansas City, which led 17-7 at the break. Its first drive was derailed by a holding penalty on Donovan Smith, its second drive on a false start on Jawaan Taylor and the third nearly was by a holding call on Kelce, who proceeded to fumble the ball away later in the drive anyway.

Standout center Creed Humphrey was also called for a false start that led to another punt later in the fourth quarter.

The result of the red-zone turnovers, the seven penalties for 55 yards and the dropped passes and missed assignments was the Chiefs' second loss in their last three games, one that knocked them from their perch atop the AFC. It also gave the Eagles their first win at Arrowhead Stadium since a 37-31 victory on October 2, 2005.

PSS schools everyone to rule gov't/biz caging

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Public School System players and coach Melanie Sablan Rdiall pose with the trophy after winning the championship of the 2023 R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Government Business League last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

It was the comeback of the season with the Public School System crushing Priority Care for the second time in a week with a 86-73 victory in the finals of the R&J Wine and Liquor Inter Government/Business League last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Priority Care came in hot in the first and the second periods, with Steve King, Alfred Manglona, Justice Aldan, Matthew Duenas, and Marvin Rabauliman shooting some smoky hot shots and smashing PSS, 26-19, and then again 43-35 through the second quarter.

Halftime looked hopeful for Priority Care as the team held an 8-point advantage over PSS.

The tension in the gym was thick and electric and by the third period, fans were going crazy with the loudest chants and cheers from PSS fans.

Not to be outdone, the most enthusiastic flag waves and loudest bleacher noise came from Priority Care fans.

As their fans rose up with their chants and cheers at the start of the third, the game took a drastic turn, as PSS educated skeptics on the definition of a comeback.

Derek Olopai made a 3-point shot to start second-half hostilities and from then on PSS was on fire.

Melvin Sakisat, Mii Junior Tekopua, Preston Basa, Roger Valencia, Tyler Palacios, and John Ferrari shot the lights out in the third quarter and PSS buried Priority Care under an avalanche of points to take a 62-52 lead entering the fourth and final quarter.

Five minutes into the fourth period, Priority Care's Duenas and King pulled off quite the insane coordination with a long throw from Duenas to King near PSS' hoop, where King proceeded to get the ball in without any hindrance. The move gave Priority a 2- point advance moving them up to 60 points.

Defense proved strong for both teams, and steals were constant on both ends, with Priority Care showing their hunger with some very impressive steals. But as PSS continued their rotation of players, the starting five from Priority Care stayed on the court throughout the game, and as they lost energy they had to face rejuvenated PSS players. After an impressive fight, PSS maintained their undefeated run this season, and moved to become this year's R&J Wine and Liquor Inter Government/ Business League.

During a halftime conversation with PSS' Marlon Cabrera, he told the media "I don't want to lose, I want to win." Checking back with him after the win, he said "I feel happy, and I'm so proud of these guys. They played their hearts out. Like I said, we came here as a team, we win as a team, and we're going to go home as a team."

Cabrera said he told the team that they weren't anticipating a Game 2 and they were going to finish it off on the court.

"We want this, and we're not coming back on Wednesday. And it goes well because tomorrow (Tuesday) is Education Day, and we're going to celebrate Education Day with a PSS win."

He extended his appreciation to the whole team for all their hard work and the fans for all their support.

"Thanks to all of them who came and supported us."

PSS' Basa was named MVP after scoring 22 points in the finals. Sakisat also totaled 22 points, while Valencia added 14.

King led all scorers with 27 points in a losing cause for Priority Care.

PSS 86 – Basa 22, Sakisat 22, Valencia 14, Olopai 9, Tekopua 8, Winkfield 4, T. Palacios 3, Ferrari 2, Villagomez 2.

Priority Care 73 – King 27, Rabauliman 17, Duenas 13, Aldan 10, Manglona 6.

Scoring by quarters: 19-26, 35-43, 62-52, 86-73.

All set for Tapochao Turkey Trot Run

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Northern Marianas Athletics' Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Run is all set for tomorrow, Nov. 23.

The traditional Thanksgiving Day race will kick off at 6am at Lower Base with over 100 runners expected to join the 4.2-mile uphill run up to Saipan's highest peak.

As always frozen turkeys await the fastest male and female runners in each age group.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr., whose club is helping organize the running event, said they're looking forward again for all runners to tackle the most lung-busting and hardest road race in the Marianas.

"We still have some very competitive runners in the registration pool such as record-holder Keith Longsuki making a comeback this year and Dr. Lily Muldoon making her debut at the Turkey Trot. Agape Christian School is making a strong showing with more than half of current registration from ACS. It will be an amazing Thanksgiving morning filled with traditional runners and new faces," he said.

Dela Cruz then thanked Department of Public Safety Commissioner Clement Bermudes and the rest of the police force for their ongoing support of road races since the No. 1 priority is road safety especially over 100 of runners are through Route 31.

"They will be our key organizational partner for tomorrow's run to ensure the safety for all our participants. We are looking at over 100 runners next week. It's going to be awesome... One of the raffle prizes this year is a brand new iPhone thanks to IT&E which you don't want to miss!" he said.

Registration fee for the 2023 Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Run is $10 and $5 for adults and under 18 runners, respectively.

For more information, email Dela Cruz at edwardjrdlc@gmail.com.

Sponsors of the 2023 Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Run are Joeten, IT&E, Saipan Vegas, MARPAC, and many more.

Last year, Keith Ketola and Kate Leugers were the fleetest afoot in the 2022 edition of the Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Run.

Ketola ran the 6.754-kilometer course in 37:13, while Leugers crossed the finish line in 39:48.

WEIGHTLIFTING

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In the men's 50m backstroke, Tenorio was tied for fifth place with New Caledonia's Chrissander Cerda to make it to the finale. Tenorio and Cerda recorded identical times of 27.56 seconds and the former eclipsed his PB mark of 28.13 seconds.

Shoko Litulumar and Frances Raho also competed in the 50m backstroke with the former setting a new PB (33.77 seconds) and the latter clocking in at 35.23 seconds.

Golfers hit course; NMI netters return to play

The opening round of the four-round golf competition kicks off today at the Honiara Golf Club.

Joseph Sasamoto will be the first to tee-off for the NMI, as he is scheduled to join three others in the 7:40am tee off at hole No. 6. He will be followed by Ben Jones Jr. at 7:50am, Franco Santos at 8:10am, and the NMI's lone female golfer Zhimin Jin at 12:10. Joe "Kamikaze' Camacho will tee off from the first hole at 8:10am.

In tennis, singles and doubles events will start today, but the draws have yet to be posted at press time. The NMI's Colin Ramsey, Moris Villanueva, Nason Wessel, and June Yu are all competing in the men's singles and will also play in the doubles.

Meanwhile, New Caledonia has overtaken host Solomon Islands in first place in the medal standings. As of 6:30pm Tuesday, New Caledonia has collected 27 medals (10 gold, 8 silvers, and 9 bronze). Solomons dropped to third with its 5-8-6 tally behind Australia (7-5-1). Team Mariana, with its 1-1-4 haul, is still in the Top 10, joining Marshall Islands (5-3-0), Papua New Guinea (4-4-5), Samoa (4-1-1), Guam (3-0-0), Tahiti (2-8-8), and Cook Islands (1-0-0).

Team Marianas' participation in the 2023 Pacific Games is supported by the Joeten Daidai Foundation, Triple J, Crowne Plaza Resort, IT&E, IP&E, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Mobil, Tan Holdings, and McDonald's of Guam & Saipan. ***(PR)***

ISAIAH

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breaststroke national record, but came up just a second short as she finished with a time of 2:54.20. Teammate Nagi Tenorio finished last with a time of 3:49.37.

Kouki Watanabe just finished short of the podium in the men's 200m breaststroke as he clocked in with a time of 2:34.88.

Finally, in the women's 4x100 freestyle relay, the team made up of Shoko Litulumar, Frances Raho, Julia Jinang, and Batallones finished fifth with a time of 4:33.80.

Coach Hiroyuki Kimura said of Aleksenko's win, "That is an epoch in CNMI swimming history. He challenged world top class swimmers, Robert Wesley of the Cook Island and Ethan Dumesnil and Thibaut Mary of New Caledonia. Isaiah showed us his strong spirit in the 100m butterfly and won the bronze medal. The race was so exciting and thrilling."

"Though [he] could not break his personal best time unfortunately, I'm super proud of my boy! So much well done!!" exclaimed Kimura.

He added that Aleksenko's main event is 200m butterfly and so, Kimura said, "he will surprise us the most then."

On the team's performance after a long Day 1, he said that everyone did their best in each event.

Kimura went on to say that back home, there is no set swimming pool for the swimmers to train in besides hotel pools, but that NMI swimmers swam against top swimmers and made it to the finals on Day 1.

He added, "CNMI adult people should respect their bravery and spirit. Again, we don't have a swimming pool in our island, building the pool is the duty of adult people, I believe."

LEIGH GASES

Isaiah Aleksenko, right, won bronze in the 100m butterfly event on Day 1 of the swimming competition Monday night at the Aquatics Center. Also in photo is New Caledonia's gold medalist Ethan Dumesnil, middle, and silver medalist Thibaut Mary, also of New Caledonia.

Coach Richard Sikkel, for his part said, "Taking into consideration the depth of the field and the number of finals the swimmers made, I'd say they performed well…"

"Isaiah did great. Medaling in the Pacific Games is pretty impressive. In short races, the difference between the top [is] very small," he said.

On what's the focus now after a full day of races, he said, "Focus is the same. Get as many swimmers to qualify for the finals and possibly pick up a medal or two."

Results of Day 2 will be published in the next edition of *Saipan Tribune.*

LEOWELL

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of this level of competition and I've gained valuable experience from it."

"The crowd was great and I'm thankful to have a large NMI group cheering me on!" He added, "I wanna say thanks to all my friends and family for supporting me. I want to wish a happy second birthday to my niece, Micah Rivas!"

As for how the experience in the Solomons has been, he said, "It's my first time here and it feels very much like home with the amazing people."

He added that two weeks from now, he will compete in the IWF Grand Prix in Doha, Qatar and is looking forward to it. Cristobal flew in last Sunday and is leaving this Thursday.

Team manager Greg Borja said he's proud of Cristobal's accomplishments. "Although he wasn't able to hit his third lift in the snatch, his clean & jerk performance brought the NMI another bronze to add to the medal count. While serving our country in the Air Force, he will continue to train, as he and the rest of our team prepare for the Oceania Championships in New Zealand this coming February 2024."

As of 12pm yesterday, this brought CNMI's medal tally to six—one gold, two silver, and three bronze medals.

2023. Honoria, Solomon Islands Pacific Games

LEIGH GASES

The CNMI men's relay team, left to right, Taiyo Akimaru, Isaiah Aleksenko, Juhn Tenorio, and Kean Pajarillaga take a group photo in the Aquatics Center main swimming pool.

LEIGH GASES

Frances Raho smiles for the camera before her preliminary races on the first day of swimming event Monday morning.

LEIGH GASES

Leowell Cristobal receives his bronze medal in the clean & jerk portion of the 67-kg class on the second day of weightlifting competitions yesterday morning at the Maranatha Hall.

LEIGH GASES

Frances Raho, NMI's youngest swimmer, in action during her preliminaries Monday morning at the Aquatics Center.

LEIGH GASES

Some members of the swim team, including coach Richard Sikkel, far right, during the preliminaries of the first day of swimming competitions.

LEIGH GASES

Taiyo Akimaru during his preliminaries on the first day of swimming events at the Aquatics Center.

LEIGH GASES

Swimming coach Hiroyuki Kimura, center, gives instructions to CNMI swimmers during the preliminaries Monday morning before the start of the first day of swimming events.

LEIGH GASES

Leowell Cristobal sets up for his lift during his weightlifting competition of the 67-kg division yesterday morning at the Maranatha Hall.

Curry extends NBA 3-point shooting record as Warriors top Rockets.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

PSS schools everyone to rule gov't/biz caging.

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Isaiah swims to 100m butterfly bronze

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

LEIGH GASES
Isaiah Aleksenko during the preliminary events on Day 1 of swimming competitions Monday evening at the Aquatics Center in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

HONIARA, Solomon Islands—NMI's flagbearer Isaiah Aleksenko won bronze in the 100m butterfly on Day 1 of swimming Monday evening at the Aquatics Center during the 2023 Pacific Games.

Aleksenko was in a deadlock with New Caledonia swimmers in the final meters of the race—with a sea of Team NMI cheering for him— but settled for bronze with a time of 55.38 seconds.

New Caledonia's Ethan Dumesnil and Thibaut Mary claimed the Top 2 spots with times of 54.82 and 55.29, respectively.

After the swimming competition, Aleksenko said that he was happy with winning bronze, but felt that he could've done better.

"I expected first but I probably didn't warm up that well so I was a little slower than the first-place winner. I didn't get a PR sadly. I was thinking about updating my best time and getting gold. As for the facility, the pool is a little hot so I'm not really used to that because usually competition pools are supposed to be cold."

As for how his experience has been so far in the Solomons, he said, "It's great, the people here are very supportive and I love it. This is probably the most supportive place I've been in."

Earlier in the day during the prelims, the men's 4x100m freestyle relay team consisting of Aleksenko, Juhn Tenorio, Kean Parajillaga, and Taiyo Akimura, broke the long-standing men's freestyle relay national record with a time of 3:40.51, then went on to improve it to 3:39.66 in the finals later that evening The record time they broke was 3:57.83 that was set in 2009.

Aleksenko, who swam the first leg, said on breaking the record, "We were all happy but we wanted to try and place but unfortunately didn't. I was so tired because it was after my event and I know I could've done better if it was one by one but at least we beat the record."

In the other events, the NMI's youngest swimmer, Frances Raho came in last in the women's 400m freestyle with a time of 5:32.85.

After the prelims in the morning, 14-year-old Raho said her experience so far has been good. "I like learning from other swimmers around the world."

Maria Batallones tried to break the women's 200m

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Leowell bags bronze in 67-kg class

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

HONIARA, Solomon Islands—Weightlifter Leowell Cristobal flew all the way to the South Pacific from Florida and didn't come out empty-handed as he bagged a bronze medal in the clean & jerk portion of the 67-kg class yesterday morning at the Maranatha Hall during the 2023 Pacific Games.

Cristobal was in a tough division with big guns Samoa and Nauru who laid waste to the competition by lifting the heaviest, but Cristobal made do with bronze as his best lift was 137 kg.

The gold medal went to Samoa's Nevo Ioane with a 166-kg record-breaking clean & jerk lift and silver was Nauru's Ditto Ika with a 145-kg lift.

Ioane swept the competition as he won gold in the concurrent Oceania Weightlifting Championships; gold overall with 260 kg and won the snatch portion with a 120-kg lift.

Samoa rocked the house as Ioane broke the 67-kg Oceania clean & jerk record by 1 kg that he set in 2020. They filled the hall with their chants and cheers as the crowd looked on and congratulated them.

After the competition and during the awarding ceremony, the U.S. Air Force airman was all smiles as he got on the podium to hand Team NMI its fifth medal of the games. Cristobal said he was "grateful and honored to represent the NMI and bring a bronze!"

"Throughout the competition, I was just focused on one lift at a time, do my best, and really have fun out there and experience the moment," he said. "I'm happy to be part

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LEIGH GASES
Leowell Cristobal completes a lift during the 67-kg weight class competition of the 2023 Pacific Games yesterday at the Maranatha Hall.

Weightlifting adds another bronze to NMI medal haul

Weightlifting contributed another medal to Team Marianas' haul, as Leowell Cristobal claimed bronze in the men's 67-kg clean & jerk at the continuation of the weightlifting competition in the 2023 Pacific Games yesterday in Honiara, the Solomon Islands.

Cristobal traveled to Honiara from Florida to represent the Northern Mariana Islands anew and made the long trip worth it with his podium finish in the highly competitive men's 67-kg class. Cristobal also suited up for Team Marianas in the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games and notched a silver medal in the clean & jerk.

With the 24-year-old's bronze medal on Day 2 of the weightlifting competition, Team Marianas now has five medals. Cristobal's fellow weightlifter, Raymond Santos, delivered the first three for NMI with a gold in the snatch, silver in total weight, and bronze in clean & jerk in the men's 55-kg class contest last Monday morning. Swimmer Isaiah Aleksenko gave the NMI its fourth medal last Monday night when he placed third in the 100m butterfly event (55.38 seconds) behind New Caledonia's Ethan Demesnil (54.82 seconds) and Thibaut Mary (55.29 seconds).

Still in weightlifting, Riella Ichiou will compete this Wednesday late afternoon at 5:30pm, while Angel San Nicolas and Antonete Labausa will take the stage on Thursday. Joey Colisao will be the last weightlifter to compete for Team Marianas, as he will have his event this Friday.

3 swimmers march to finals; PBs set

Maria Batallones, Juhn Tenorio, and Taiyo Akimaru moved into the finals of their respective events.

Batallones raced in the women's 50m backstroke and finished fifth in the preliminaries Tuesday morning to earn a spot in the finale, which took place last night. Batallones timed in at 35.09 seconds, surpassing her personal best of 35.96 seconds.

In the men's 200m individual medley, Akimaru took the last finals berth in the event after submitting 2:24.65 and defeating seven other swimmers.

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2023 PACIFIC GAMES MEDAL STANDINGS
(As of November 21, 2023 | 6:30PM)

COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
New Caledonia	10	8	9	27
Australia	7	5	1	13
Solomon Islands	5	8	6	19
Marshall Islands	5	3	0	8
Papua New Guinea	4	4	5	13
Samoa	4	1	1	6
Guam	3	0	0	3
Tahiti	2	8	8	18
Northern Mariana Islands	1	1	3	5
Cook Islands	1	0	0	1
FSM	1	0	0	1
Nauru	0	3	3	6
Fiji	0	1	1	2
New Zealand	0	0	4	4
Kiribati	0	0	3	3
Tonga	0	0	3	3
American Samoa	0	0	0	0
Niue	0	0	0	0
Norfolk Island	0	0	0	0
Palau	0	0	0	0
Tokelau	0	0	0	0
Tuvalu	0	0	0	0
Vanuatu	0	0	0	0
Wallis and Futuna	0	0	0	0

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